

Baker rejects calls to close Sellafield plant after latest leak

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

After the fourth leak in five weeks at the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria, the Government said yesterday there was no case for closing the site. It was the most serious of the accidental discharges in the past five weeks. The material escaped through a seal of synthetic compound. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, defended British Nuclear Fuels in the television programme This Week Next Week.

Strike gets backing of Powell

Mr Enoch Powell, the Ulster Unionist MP for South Down, has given his support to the 24-hour protest strike against the Anglo-Irish agreement as a lawful and legitimate form of expression.

Ulster extremists wield strike power

Continued from page 1

by bodies known as the Ulster Clubs, formed last November specifically to combat the Anglo-Irish agreement. It is at this level that the most hard-line stance is being adopted. The leader of the Ulster Clubs is Mr Alan Wright, a 31-year-old unemployed electrician whose policeman father was killed in a bombing seven years ago. Today, Mr Wright represents the most extreme articulation of the Unionist position. He openly admits to standing at the interface of the Unionist politicians and the gunmen of the Protestant paramilitary organizations.



More than 1,000 Land Rovers and their owners from all over Britain gathered at Battersea Park, London, yesterday before driving in convoy to Downing Street as part of the campaign to keep the company British.

Crops hit worst by cold winds

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Winter-sown crops in the main arable areas of eastern England have been badly damaged by the prolonged spell of bitter, desiccating winds and the absence of snow to protect them from frosts.

Ban on The Times faces court test

By a Staff Reporter

The refusal of certain public libraries to display copies of The Times and other News International publications may be challenged in the courts by a barrister who was denied access to the newspaper's law reports.

Ex-killer chosen as minister

The Rev James Nelson, a convicted murderer, was yesterday chosen as minister for two churches. It is the first time that the Church of Scotland has chosen a convicted killer as a minister.

BBC chairman gives licence fee warning

Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, yesterday defended the need for a licence fee, saying that abandoning it could lead to advertisers controlling all programme schedules.

Oil price threatens coal a year after miners' strike ended

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Having spent a year restoring morale and increasing output in the pits, the National Coal Board management now faces the threat of losing much of its growth affected by a disarray among the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).



Miners from the Bold colliery at St Helens, Merseyside, marching back to work

Honeymoon over for rebels

The refusal of the NUM executive last week to endorse a call for an overtime ban from Mr Arthur Scargill was bad news for the leaders of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) (Craig Seton writes).

Dutch Citizens!

You are now able to participate for the first time from abroad in the elections for the representatives of the Second Chamber of the States-General on 21st May 1986. Naturally you do wish to make use of your right to vote. You can register as voter before 24th March, that is to say that your registration forms need to be received by the Rijksinspectie in the Hague by that day.

Yorkshire

By Peter Davenport

A year after the end of the miners' strike, the Yorkshire coalfield has fewer miners and fewer pits, but it is recording increased productivity with some men doubling their wage packets with bonuses. Yorkshire, the country's biggest coalfield, is based on two area headquarters, North and South, instead of the four areas of management that existed before the dispute.

Midlands

By Craig Seton

Nottinghamshire coal kept the Trent Valley power stations operating during the strike and denied the National Union of Mineworkers the power cuts it desperately needed to achieve victory. The coalfield's 30,000 men were almost solidly behind moderate leaders who emerged to take over from pro-Scargill officials during the strike and when it ended getting back to normal was easier than in most pits.

Wales

By Tim Jones

Coal will never be king again in South Wales but one year after the strike the future for the 13,500 men still in the industry appears to be secure in the 17 pits remaining. Before the strike, the 20,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers knew their resilience was part of the mythology of the valleys. Once they had joined the strike, after voting initially by 18 lodges to 10 against, their behaviour ran true to character. They became, without question, the most militant defenders of the dispute.

teachers union... pol...

Vouchers could have kept peace in schools?

By George Hill

Education vouchers could have prevented the year-long teachers' strike by giving parents the power to move their children away from disrupted schools, a book published by the Institute of Economic Affairs claims today.

The book, by Mr Arthur Seldon, the institute's former editorial director, asks whether the recent revival of interest in vouchers among ministers, so soon after Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, officially declared the idea dead in 1983, may be a result of the dispute.

"If a device such as the voucher for enabling dissatisfied parents to move their children had been introduced, or even provisionally announced, in 1983 or 1984, it would have strengthened the bargaining power of the minister and improved the prospects of earlier settlement", Mr Seldon says.

A number of ministerial hints have been made in recent months that the proposal is by no means dead, there was also clear indication from 10 Downing Street last week that Mrs Margaret Thatcher would favour its inclusion in the party's programme at the next election.

Pay peace talks today

Talks aimed at solving the teachers' pay dispute are due to resume in London today with little sign of an agreement between the teaching unions involved.

At the weekend Sir Keith Joseph called on teachers to end the "misery" of the dispute at today's talks.

Killer tests on four dogs

Tests were being carried out last night to identify a dog which killed David Clarke, aged seven, who was found on Friday in a field near his home in Hooton, Leicestershire.

Four dogs which may have been on the loose at the time have been examined by a vet, and hair and tooth imprints have been sent to forensic scientists.

Head wins crossword eliminator

By John Grant, Crossword Editor

Mr Michael Wareham, headmaster of New Park School, St Andrews, Fife, won the Scottish regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship at the Grosvenor Hotel, Glasgow, yesterday for the third year in succession. Mr Wareham, aged 44, and a former national finalist, completed the four puzzles, without a mistake in an average of 14 minutes for each.

Mr Michael Macdonald-Cooper, also aged 44, a freelance writer from Inchture, Perthshire, came second, a minute and a half per puzzle slower than the winner. He is a semi-finalist in this year's BBC Mastermind competition.

Mr Wareham and Mr Macdonald-Cooper both go through to the national final in London in September. Mr J. Quick, aged 51, classics master at Dollar Academy, Perthshire, came third, a minute and a half per puzzle slower than the winner. He is a semi-finalist in this year's BBC Mastermind competition.

The Riddle of the Voucher (IEA, Lord North Street, SW1, £3.50)

Scotland

By Ronald Faux

The Scottish area of the National Coal Board employs nearly 8,000 miners in nine collieries. Before the strike, 13,500 men worked at 10 pits and the coalfield returned an operating loss of £34 million a year. Now the board aims to break even by 1987-88. Scotland lost one colliery during the strike, Polkmuir in West Lothian fell victim to the most bitter moments of the dispute between unions and management as the flooded. The pit supplied 500,000 tonnes of coking coal to Ravenscraig steelworks in Lanarkshire.

Workers unhappy with way unions represent them, poll claims

By David Hewson

Trade union members are increasingly unhappy with the way their unions represent them, a poll published yesterday claims.

The survey, produced by MORI for Industry Year as reports by the Association of Market Survey Organizations, shows that 48 per cent of workers, and 43 per cent of trade union members, believe their organizations are controlled "by a few extremists and militants".

The percentage of shop-floor workers who thought their interests were being well looked after by their shop stewards had fallen from 70 per cent 10 years ago to 42 per cent today, and only 42 per cent believed their national executive cared about them.

The survey showed that members tend to belong to a trade union not for political power, but for job security.

Among all workers, 52 per cent thought that the unions still had too much power in Britain in spite of changes in the law, and 42 per cent of trade union members agreed.

But 58 per cent of workers believed that unions were essential to protect workers' interests.

There was widespread op-

Trade union to run TV advert

A trade union will make British broadcasting history today when it starts advertising its services on television in seven 10-second "jingles" costing £10,000.

The advertisement by the Transport and General Workers' Union, Britain's largest union, will go out each night until Sunday at peak viewing time to Granada TV viewers in the north-west of England.

position to the principle of the closed shop. Only 17 per cent of workers thought everyone who works should have to belong to a union, and even among union members only 32 per cent believed that union membership should be compulsory.

But most workers did not believe that trade unions were the main cause of the country's economic difficulties.

And the poll showed that workers felt that their immediate boss was almost as likely to look after their interests as much as their shop steward.

A total of 57 per cent believed their interests were being well looked after by their

local union representative, 56 per cent by their immediate boss, 42 per cent by their union national executive, 34 per cent by top management, 19 per cent by their local MP, and 9 per cent by the Government.

There was widespread support for secret ballots of union members concerning a range of issues.

More than 80 per cent of union members, and three-quarters of general workers, supported ballots before strikes, 78 per cent of workers wanted them for the election of union officials, and 69 per cent on closed shop agreements.

The idea of accepting wage reductions to ensure continued employment was attractive to only 4 per cent of shop-floor workers in manufacturing and construction.

A total of 14 per cent rated their company as "one of the best", 20 per cent "above average", 52 per cent "average", 6 per cent "below average" and 5 per cent "one of the worst".

The survey was based upon 1,019 manual workers and managers in the manufacturing, mining, and construction industries and in the service sector, including government.



Retirement at 70 proposed for GPs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Proposals to make family doctors retire at the age of 70, to make it easier for patients to change doctors and to find out what services local doctors offer are to be put forward in the Government's Green Paper on the future of family practitioner services.

Ministers are to propose that GPs should move towards a performance-related contract, where those who undertake preventive work and achieve high rates of vaccination, immunization and screening, would receive more pay. There would also be incentives to encourage younger doctors to move to inner-city areas.

The Green Paper, first promised for October 1984, is expected to appear about Easter. But ministers are emphasizing that it will be an "agenda for discussion" rather than a firm plan of action.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Ser-

Mrs Gay Biddlecombe, whose St George's English Wines have been chosen to launch the Domesday celebrations this month, with her staff pruning the vines in sub-zero temperatures in the East Sussex vineyard. Specially bottled for the celebrations, Domesday English Wine, being tasted (right) by Mrs Biddlecombe, has been selected by The National Domesday Committee and the Public Record Office for all the official functions, including the reception to be attended by the Queen. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Budget tax cut plea as sherry sales drop

By Derek Harris

Sales of fortified wines, especially sherry, fell 18 per cent last year, in spite of bigger Christmas sales to shops. At the same time, the sale of table wines slowed for the first time since 1982.

The findings emerge from the latest analyses by the Wine and Spirit Association, based on customs and excise returns. The association blames over-taxation for the decline and is calling for taxes to be reduced in the Budget.

The association has appealed to Spain and Portugal to add to the pressure to reduce the taxes in Britain now that these key exporters of sherry and port are EEC members.

Beer sales are also still in the doldrums, but lager accounts for 41 per cent of the beer market.

Disruption threat in Bar pay deadlock

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A deadlock between the Bar and the Attorney General over barristers' fees for prosecution work threatens widespread disruption of the Crown prosecution service, due to start in parts of the country on April 1.

Negotiations ceased abruptly three weeks ago at the same time as the Lord Chancellor announced he was increasing defence fees under legal aid by only 5 per cent.

The Bar is challenging the Lord Chancellor in the courts over that decision, but it has failed to make any progress with negotiations on prosecution fees.

When barristers decided to take legal proceedings against the Lord Chancellor, they also agreed they should be free to refuse prosecutions unless a reasonable fee was agreed.

This move, which comes close to industrial action, will directly affect the new service, unless Bar leaders and the Attorney General can agree on fees within four weeks.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "We are pressing the Attorney General for negotiations and there is great concern that he has not so far responded, bearing in mind he agreed these negotiations should take place within a timetable to be completed by the end of January."

Three weeks ago, the Attorney General wrote to Mr Alexander, saying that the new prosecution service would need to engage private practitioners in the magistrates' courts to supplement its own lawyers.

But there has been no further move on crown court work, where the Bar is putting forward a system of "standard fees", which would remove the need for each brief to be assessed.

Move to save wild flowers

More than 300 of Britain's wild flowers are threatened with extinction (Our Horticulture Correspondent writes).

To focus attention on this and to campaign for better management of wild-flower habitats such as roadside verges, the Royal Society of Nature Conservation's British wild life appeal is organizing a wild flower week on May 17-26.

The week will begin with a sponsored celebrities wild flower walk, started by Mr David Bellamy, the botanist.

This will leave the Stoke Garden Festival on May 17 and, passing through many wild flower reserves, will arrive during the opening of the Chelsea Flower Show on May 20.

Other events around the country will include exhibitions.

A wild life garden is being created at the Stoke Garden Festival (May 17 to October 26) and there will be a display called Wild Flowers Are Wonderful at the Chelsea show.

The RSNCC, in association with the Ford Motor Company, is producing a booklet, *Wild Flowers on the Verge*.

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Office use of VDUs 'soon 50%

More than half Britain's workforce will regularly be using visual display units within four years, according to the TUC today.

It points out that 1.25 million VDUs are in use in Britain and that sales of word processors, personal computers and larger systems continue at a rapid rate.

The TUC says that as a result of research confirming that some health problems are frequently encountered among VDU workers, it publishes today a handbook that sets out guidelines for the safe use of the equipment.

The aim of the guidelines is to assist safety representatives and other union officials in their negotiations with employers on the introduction and use of VDUs.

The TUC is particularly keen to avoid intensive VDU work and to limit the total time spent on such work.

British industry is so dependent on computers that computer failure could ruin companies, an international insurance specialist expert says.

According to Stewart Wrightson, the international insurance brokers, many companies depend on computers for the day-to-day running of their business to such an extent that a computer system interruption of more than a few hours could bring a company close to collapse.

Proposals for law reform this week

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Far-reaching changes in the criminal justice system to make it more effective in bringing criminals to book will be proposed by the Government in a White Paper on Thursday.

The main ingredients of the mixed package of reforms are:

- Changes in the extradition laws to stop the United Kingdom being used as a haven by international criminals.
- The abolition of trial by jury for certain minor offences to ease crown court congestion.
- Options for curbing a defendant's right to challenge jurors without reason.
- Options for tackling over-lenient sentences by judges.

The reforms to the extradition laws will include a relaxation of the present legal rule which makes it difficult for foreign courts to get alleged offenders out of Britain.

In return, it is hoped that other countries will take steps to return British fugitives.

The White Paper will also outline changes in the present system of trial by jury. It wants to abolish the right to jury trial in the case of some minor offences, such as common assault and driving while disqualified.

Proposals to curb the controversial peremptory challenge, or right to challenge jurors, will also be put forward in the form of options.

These options are expected

to range from complete abolition of the peremptory challenge, to reducing the present right of three challenges to one.

The White Paper will suggest that complete abolition be matched by an expansion in the right to challenge for cause, or giving a reason.

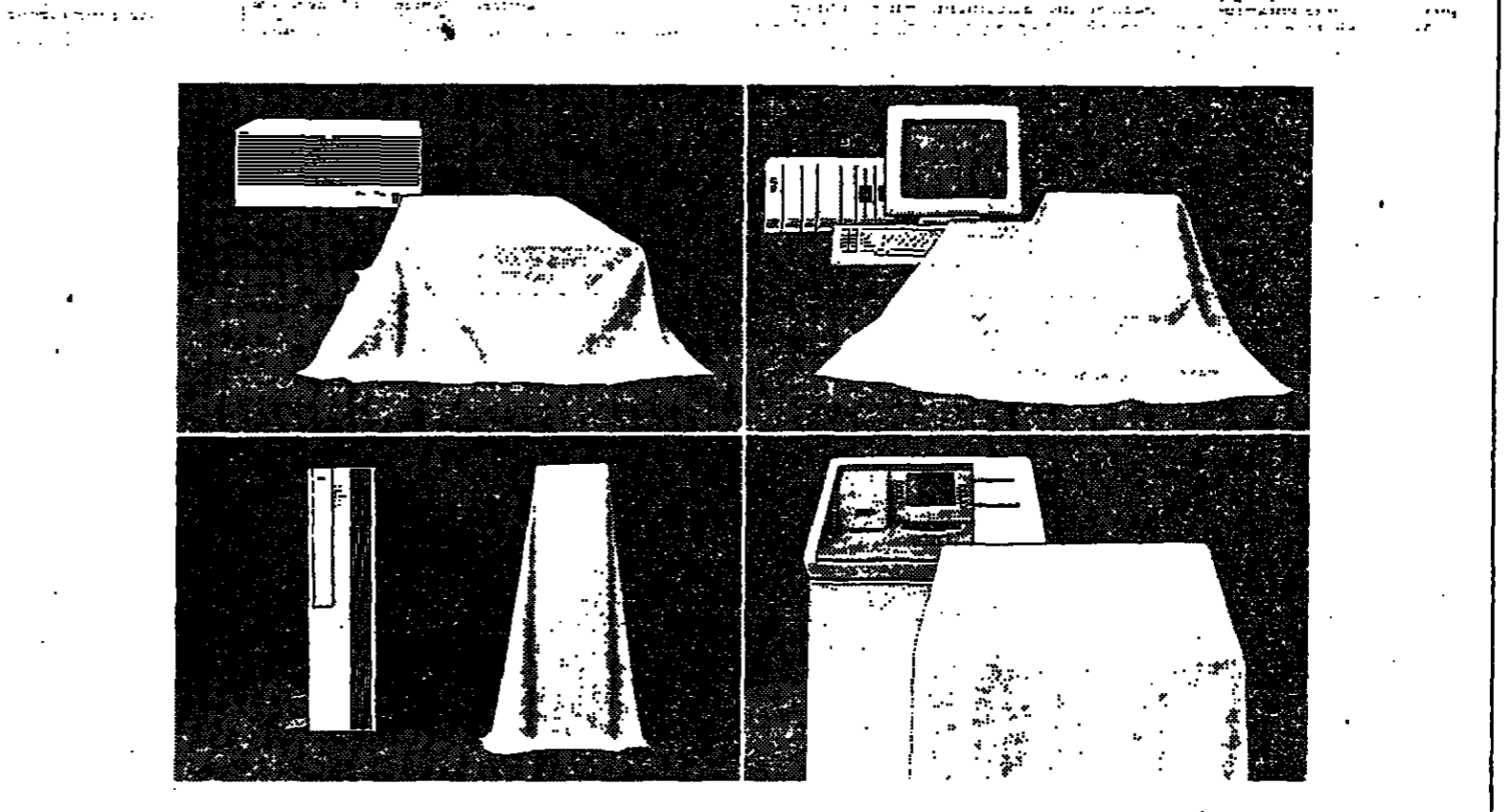
Finally the White Paper is expected to put forward three options for tackling over-lenient sentences in the face of concern by some backbenchers.

Last year the Government was forced to withdraw a proposal that the Court of Appeal should be able to review allegedly over-lenient sentences referred to it by the prosecution, and to make a statement of opinion, because of parliamentary opposition.

The same proposal will be one of three options canvassed in the White Paper. A second option will be the same proposal but with "teeth". The Court of Appeal would be able to increase the sentence if it thought it was too lenient and not be confined just to a statement of opinion.

Third, the White Paper will suggest that sentencing by judges be made more consistent. This would be done by codifying the practice directions of the Lord Chief Justice into a "guide book" for judges, perhaps with statutory backing.

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Plea to save merlins

Merlin falcons are the only bird of prey whose numbers are falling in the United Kingdom, according to the latest issue of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' magazine, *Birds*.

The society is calling for action to ensure that the merlin's upland habitat is not destroyed by farming and forestry. It wants the Government to support the Agriculture Bill which would allow large areas of land to be designated environmentally sensitive areas.

The Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission have drawn up a list of 18 such areas, including the Cambrian mountains and Orkney. The merlin population in Britain is about 600



The merlin falcon, whose numbers are falling. pairs: 350 pairs in Scotland, 200 in northern England and 50 in Wales.

Britons under 24 keen to travel in space

Six out of 10 young Britons would travel in space if they had the chance and the idea is twice as popular with men, according to a holiday survey out today.

What Britons do and spend on holiday are contained in the survey conducted by Gallup for American Express.

It shows that enthusiasm for space travel is affected by age: 63 per cent of those aged 16 to 24 would go, compared with 16 per cent of the 65-plus group.

More than 16-million British adults are likely to take a foreign holiday this year, 2.6 million more than last year.

Weather hits cathedral charges

Ely Cathedral took £313 when it began imposing admission charges at the weekend.

But the authorities at the cathedral, one of the finest in Europe and dating back 1,300 years, said they were not disappointed.

Canon Dennis Green, vicar and treasurer, said yesterday: "It was a slow start because of the weather. It was sleeting."

More than 200 sightseers, including Australians, Germans and French, each paid £1.50 to go into the building which dominates the Cam-

bridgeshire Fen landscape. Children, students and pensioners were charged £1.

Until now the 200,000 visitors a year have given an average of 32p each.

Canon Green said: "The response of everyone was very positive. They quite understood our situation. We have to raise an extra £100,000 a year to break even."

"It is a case of the cathedral either remaining a living building or becoming a future Stonehenge."

"No one expressed alarm that they had to pay. I was amazed. I expected to have to explain our situation in great detail."

"We have notice boards explaining that we don't receive state aid."

More than 1,000 free passes have been issued to local people and the Cathedral Friends, its supporters' club.

"No charges are made at the cathedral on Sundays. A side chapel for prayers is available free of charge throughout the week," Canon Green said.

More than £5 million has to be found for the upkeep and restoration of the cathedral during the next 10 years. An international fund-raising campaign is to be launched.

Government will not contribute to safety at football grounds

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A government working party, set up after the Bradford City fire disaster to organize the financing of football ground improvements, has been quietly wound up without the Government having to contribute to the multi-million-pound cost.

But Mrs Thatcher argued strongly at several Downing Street meetings that the game itself had the capacity to find more money.

The working party, chaired by Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, and involving several government departments and the football authorities, is considered by the Government to have a role no longer.

The authorities pressed until the last the need for government help but, according to a working party source, were in the end outmanoeuvred by the Government.

According to the source, it was a suggestion from Mr Tracey that the FA should consider organizing sponsor-

ship for the FA Cup competition, a suggestion it regards with horror, before asking for money from the Government that finally led it to admit defeat.

A decision before Christmas to allow the clubs five years to complete the improvements, while keeping unsafe parts of their grounds closed, has enabled the Government to say that the clubs should complete the programme with considerable help from the Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

Each year it gives £4 million from the spot-the-ball competitions for safety work.

Its allied organization, the Football Trust, will soon announce a £300,000 scheme to help the big non-League clubs.

Jobless build 'own' hall

Community enterprise has a long tradition in Glasgow. The pioneering work in the 1970s by Mr Jim Johnson and his colleagues in the architectural co-operative, Assist, on rehabilitating tenement blocks with the help of tenants has been widely copied (Charles Knevitt writes).

For the past four years Mr Andy Jack, an Assist architect, has been working with

Spittal Tenants Community Association in the Glasgow suburb of Rutherglen. Their community hall, serving an estate of 850 houses, opens this summer with the help of a £50,000 grant from Glasgow District Council and labour provided through the Manpower Services Commission.

The project is one of the 33 entries short-listed in The Times/RIBA Community En-

terprise Scheme. It was visited by the assessors at the weekend.

Mrs Margaret Deans, secretary of the association, said that positive discrimination had been used in selecting MSC labour from the surrounding area.

Mr Kenny Waters, the site manager, said but he has had considerable success in finding permanent jobs for them.

Spray attack on police

Thirty-six policemen suffered irritation to the eyes, nose and throat when they were attacked by football supporters armed with canisters at Southampton.

Hampshire Police said that it was not known what the policemen were sprayed with. None was seriously hurt.

The incident happened when 750 Manchester United supporters broke down two gates as they surged out of Southampton's stadium. The Dell, shortly before the end of Saturday's First Division match.

Girl murdered after disco

The parents of a girl aged 16 who was found strangled and sexually assaulted early yesterday morning in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, were travelling from their home in Liverpool last night to identify their daughter's body.

The girl, who had been living in the resort, was on her way home from a discotheque when she was attacked.

Militant fails

Mr Ben Lucas, aged 23, a Liverpool University student who supports the soft left, was elected leader of the Labour Students Organizations on Saturday, defeating a Militant

Australia independent at last

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra



A smiling Queen accepts bouquets from Australian children during a walkabout on her arrival in Canberra.

The Queen yesterday left traditional Maori insults and political brouhaha in New Zealand and arrived in Canberra for a 12-day visit which for all Australia's reputation for belligerent egalitarianism, is unlikely to be touched by the same kind of controversy.

Her first official duty was to grant Australians the full independence from Britain which many thought they had decades ago.

In a simple ceremony at Government House here, attended by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet, the Queen signed a proclamation activating from today the Australia Acts of 1986, recently passed by the British and Federal Parliaments.

The Acts remove the residual — and by general agreement outdated — legislative, executive and judicial fetters which could be imposed from Britain.

The unbanding by Australia of such control has been a process which started with the effective granting of self-government in 1901 — when colonies like Victoria and New South Wales federated as a nation — and continued through the 1930s but which is only now complete.

The final phase, which started more than a decade ago, was delayed as much by a certain weariness at various state parliaments at the prospect of losing further authority to Canberra as by reluctance in Westminster to approve it. The most significant change in practical terms is abolition of the right of appeal to the Privy Council. The view has been widely held in legal circles for years here that it was intolerable for a foreign body to have overriding legal

jurisdiction in Australia, and henceforth the High Court is the final judicial authority.

The Act also scraps powers which British governments have in theory retained but in effect not exercised for years, as a link between state governments in Australia and the Crown.

The New Zealand tour was incident-filled to the end. On Saturday three women in their early twenties exposed their buttocks to the Queen as she was being driven to a garden party in Christchurch.

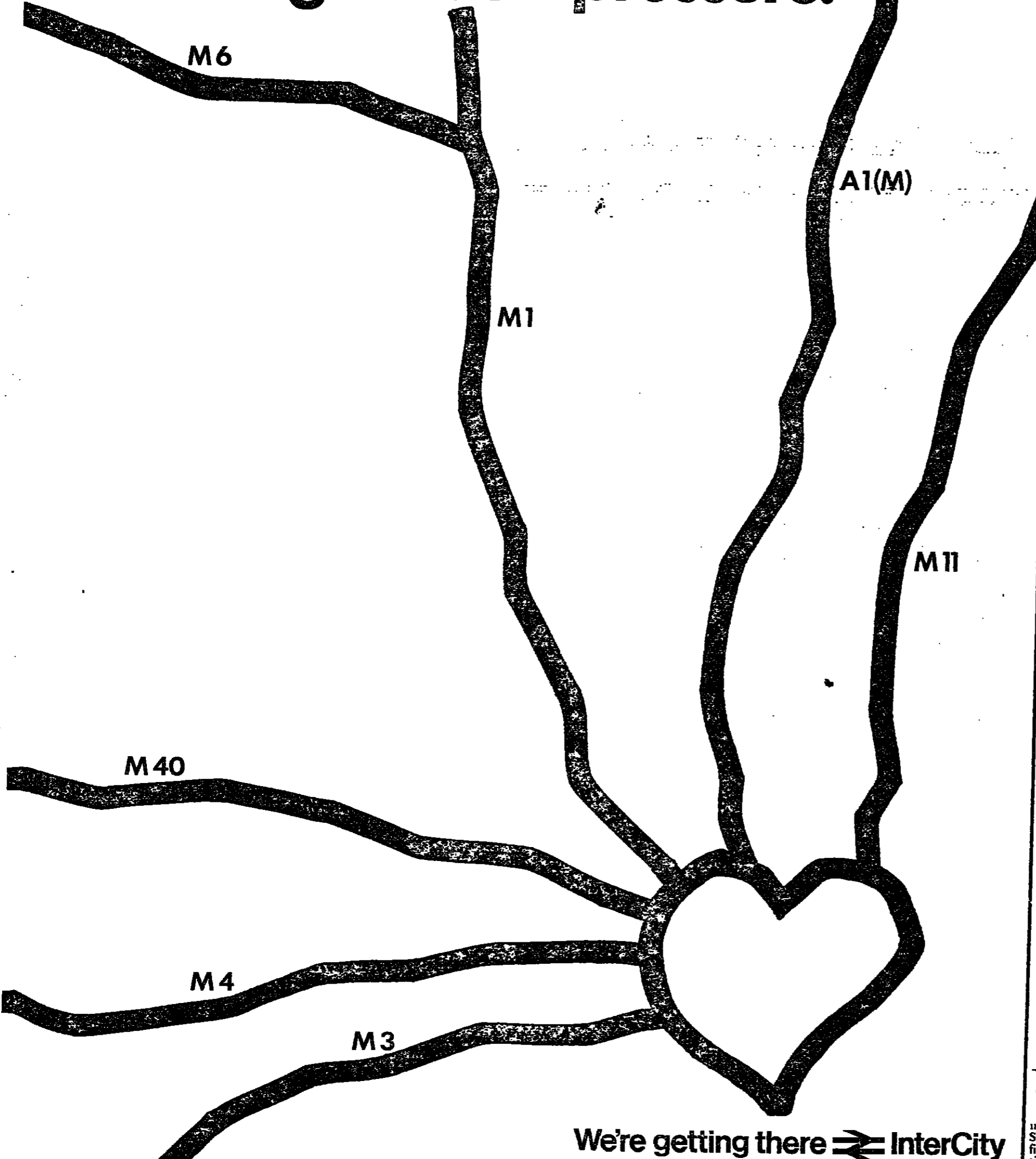
The Whakapohane, as this traditional Maori gesture is known, was clearly seen by the Queen, and was the second time on the tour that she and the Duke of Edinburgh had been confronted by protesters in this way. She was also hit by an egg thrown by a young woman and encountered a number of demonstrations.

For all the attention these protests have attracted, it would be a mistake to imagine that New Zealand — arguably the most ardently royalist of all Commonwealth countries — has undergone some dramatic metamorphosis. The demonstrators were invariably in small groups and generally representative of fringe political groups.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, clearly testy at the coverage the incidents have attracted in the British media, said to British journalists on Saturday: "She is the Queen of New Zealand. I don't remember complaining when a man got into her bedroom at Buckingham Palace. I wish you people would look after her as well as we do in New Zealand".

Special Report, pages 21-24

Blocked arteries give businessmen high blood pressure.



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Dingo baby mother breaks down on TV

Sydney (Reuter) — The convicted baby-killer, Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, repeatedly broke down yesterday as she insisted in her first television interview since her release from jail that her nine-week-old daughter was snatched by a dingo.

Mrs Chamberlain, aged 38, whose bizarre case has gripped Australia, was freed on February 9 after serving three years of a life sentence for killing her baby, Azaria, in 1980.

She said she would fight to clear her name and those of her family and witnesses who said Azaria was taken by a dingo from a camp site at remote Ayers Rock.

After new evidence was found relating to her baby's death, Mrs Chamberlain was freed, but the authorities said that her conviction would stand pending the outcome of a new inquiry.

Mrs Chamberlain, who showed an apparent detachment during her marathon murder trial, spoke emotionally about what her conviction had done to her family.

"To see my children's reactions, to watch my father go grey, nothing will pay for that, not ever, and that makes me extremely angry," she said.

Mrs Chamberlain, who has three other children, said there was no way she could have killed her daughter, whose body was never found.



Mrs Lindy Chamberlain vows to clear name.

Asked why she did not pretend she killed her daughter in a state of post-natal depression, she said: "Why should I pretend that I had done something I didn't do?"

The evidence which triggered her release was the discovery of a tattered jacket she identified as the one Azaria wore on the night she went missing.

Her supporters say that the jacket, still under forensic study, proved that Azaria was wearing it on the night she disappeared, a fact hotly contested by the prosecution during Mrs Chamberlain's trial.

The interview was shown on a channel controlled by the media tycoon Mr Kerry Packard, whose Consolidated Press Group is reported by local newspapers to have paid £125,000 for exclusive interviews with the Chamberlains.

Seven die in Tamil ambush

Colombo (AFP. Reuter) — Tamil militants in Sri Lanka killed five soldiers and two Sinhalese farmers in an attack yesterday in the Vavuniya district, about 160 miles north of here.

The soldiers were guarding the farmers as they moved their harvest from a paddy field when the Tamils blew up their vehicles with a remote control landmine. Seven other farmers were seriously injured.

A ban on fishing in Sri Lanka's northern territorial waters went into effect yesterday after the Government accused Tamil separatists of ferrying arms and trained terrorists from southern India. Informed sources here said the Government was planning to spend 300 million rupees (£8 million) on buying new naval patrol vessels for use in the Palk Strait separating India and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka launched a diplomatic campaign to defend itself against Indian accusations of genocide. The acting Foreign Minister, Mr Tyrone Fernando, announced that he would meet envoys from 10 countries today to brief them on Sri Lanka's view of the dispute.

London to share chess fight

Lucerne (Reuter) — A rematch between the new world chess champion, Gary Kasparov, and the challenger and former world champion, his fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov, will be held in London and Leningrad from July 28, the International Chess Federation announced here.

The first 12 games will be played in Britain and the remaining 12 in the Soviet Union, the statement said.

The decision to hold the competition in two centres was made despite the ruling body's wish for the whole match to be in London, it added.

The federation's president, Mr Florencio Campomanes, dismissed reports that his organization had been engaged in a power struggle with the Soviet Chess Federation. A London financing problem had been resolved. A decision over prize money would be taken in the near future, Mr Campomanes said. London originally offered 1.8 million Swiss francs (£666,000) and Leningrad one million.

Because of the long time taken to decide on the venue there was barely enough time to complete preparations for the tournament.

China's first bankrupt

Peking (Reuter) — A factory in the north-eastern city of Shenyang will become the first firm to go bankrupt in China since 1949, the Peking Review magazine said yesterday.

It said the unnamed factory, one of three in Shenyang that were warned last August to put their houses in order, had failed to do so and would have to auction its assets to pay off creditors. Its employees would

be listed as "waiting for work", the official term for unemployment. About 3.6 million are so listed.

The magazine said Shenyang was the first city in China to take such a "daring" measure, with the country's first bankruptcy law due to be approved this year. Bankruptcy is a sensitive topic in China, where the government is committed to full employment.

Bitter a
Myster
Tributes
Bonn asks Ang
the Jews
to forgive
Murder of Pal

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After the Philippines upheaval

Joyful millions cheer conquering Corazon

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila
In a highly theatrical gesture, the new President of the Philippines, Mrs Corazon Aquino, yesterday revoked her predecessor's suspension of habeas corpus and signed the presidential proclamation with a flourish before a vast mass meeting in the centre of the capital, Manila.

rebel New People's Army (NPA). Mr Bernabe Bascayano.
The failure to release all the prisoners - though an obviously sound move in the event - is not the only way that the new Government is not quite living up to the immediately high expectations of its followers.



Still in the shadow of the military, a Filipino family picnics before President Aquino's rally.

Marcos claims he stepped down to avert bloodshed

From Christopher Thomas, Washington
Mr Ferdinand Marcos the ousted Philippines President, looking typically impassive but bitter than when he first stepped shakily off an American military plane in Hawaii on Wednesday, said at the weekend that he had stepped down rather than use his "superior military power".

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Moscow offer to West on SS22s

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union has promised to withdraw new short-range nuclear missiles from Czechoslovakia and East Germany if the United States agrees to scrap its European-based rockets under an East-West arms control deal.

Low-key birthday. Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's 55th birthday yesterday passed with barely a mention in the Soviet press, in contrast with the pomp that surrounded such occasions when Brezhnev was party leader.

Karmal blames US for Afghan stalemate

Moscow (Reuters) - President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan has said that US pressure on Pakistan is blocking a settlement of his country's guerrilla war.



President Babrak Karmal: settlement could be found.

González in fighting mood for Nato poll

From Richard Wigg, Jaén, Andalusia
Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, came to his native Andalusia yesterday to plunge personally into his Government's campaign for a "Yes" verdict in the Nato referendum 10 days from now.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Abbarak de', 'four com', 'police m', 'rainian de', 'France deplo', 'north of Najat', 'lands put', 'the Cabinet'.

Mubarak downgrades four commanders of police mutineers

As Egyptian government troops yesterday tramped through miles of sand dunes west of the Pyramids in search of the few mutinous security policemen who managed to escape from their besieged barracks on Friday, President Mubarak hastily replaced the officers who commanded — but did not control — the thousands of security men who rioted throughout Cairo last week.

Four senior officials have been transferred to humble positions in the government bureaucracy, the nature of which gives some indication of the ignominy into which Mr Mubarak has thrown their careers.

Newspapers here have given considerable publicity to the dismissals, so that Egyptians should realize how seriously the President regards the rebellion within his own security forces.

Major-General Muhammad Tantiqi fell from grace rather spectacularly. From being head of the Egyptian State Security Services, he has been made Assistant Minister for the "Central Delta Area". Major-General Hussein Kamel Zaki, who was First Assistant Minister for the Security Services, will now

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

exercise his talents as First Assistant Minister for "Economic Security" (sic), while Major-General Lutfi Abdul-Fattah Ibrahim, the director for the Central Security Forces, is to become director of the "Department of Data and Documentation" — in other words, state archives.

Major-General Mukhtar Maged, who was Assistant Minister for the Security Forces, has now been put in charge of "financial and administrative affairs".

Mr Mubarak has at least tried to deal with the immediate causes of the rioting by instructing his new Interior Minister, Major-General Zaki Badri, to look after the "social interests" of the black-uniformed conscripts who are supposed to control internal security in the capital.

Indeed, details of their conditions which are now emerging in Cairo say a good deal about the contempt in which the authorities held them over the past decade.

It transpires, for example, that the average wage of a Cairo security policeman was £4 a month — enough money to buy two soft drinks in the hotels which they burnt down in their riot last week.

Many were enraged not so

much by false rumours that their three-year term of conscription was to be raised by 12 months as by an instruction that they were now to lose two days' pay a month "for austerity reasons".

Furthermore, the police — many of whom come from villages hundreds of miles from Cairo — were told that their free train fares home every six weeks were henceforth to be given to them only once every three months.

The policemen, with their outdated Soviet bayonet-topped breech-loading rifles, who stood guard outside foreign embassies in the capital, were expected to buy or cage bread while on duty, sometimes accepting food as gifts from passers-by. Yesterday many of them were back on duty in the city — but without their rifles.

There is little doubt in Egypt, however, that improvements in their conditions will be merely cosmetic if the Government does not swiftly come to grips with the more fundamental problem of poverty among the overcrowded, Dickensian slums of the city.

Yet with falling oil and tourist revenues, it is difficult to see how the President can even begin to cope.



Iraqi soldiers in action outside Fao, the south-eastern Iraqi port which has been occupied for two weeks by Iranian troops.

Ship chief officer dies in Gulf raid

Bahrain (Reuter) — Five warplanes, apparently from Iran, bombed a Turkish tanker in the Gulf yesterday, killing the ship's chief officer and injuring a crew member, shipping officials said.

The attack on the Atlas 1, bound for the main Saudi Arabian oil terminal of Ras Tanurah, appeared to be a retaliation from Iran for four strikes in the past week by Iraq on tankers using Iranian ports.

In Istanbul, the general manager of a state-owned shipping company said that the ship was hit by bombs from five still unidentified military aircraft 150 miles off Ras Tanurah.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said that the attack appeared to have been carried out by Iranian aircraft, judging from the ship's position 85 miles east of Qatar and the use of bombs.

● NICOSIA: Iranian troops have shelled the military garrison at Suleymaniyah in north-east Iraq, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday (AP reports).

It was thought to be the first time that the environs of the city, one of the twin capitals of Iraq's Kurdistan region, have come under artillery fire since the outbreak of the war 5½ years ago. Dozens of Iraqi soldiers were reported killed or wounded.

Ershad offers to hold elections at end of April

From Ahmed Fazi Dhaka

President Ershad of Bangladesh announced here yesterday that he would hold elections for a new Parliament in the last week of April, in an attempt to return the country to democracy after four years of military rule.

General Ershad asked the main opposition parties to withdraw their boycott threat, and promised to take steps to ensure fair elections.

But he emphasized that he would not end martial law before the poll, as demanded by the two main opposition alliances.

At least three previous attempts to hold elections were abandoned after opposition boycott threats.

There were no immediate reactions from the opposition, but both Mrs Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the 15-party alliance, and Mrs Khaleda Zia, leader of the seven-party alliance, said in speeches on Saturday that they could not take part in polls under military rule.

The two alliances have called a general strike for March 24, and have threatened to follow it up with a civil disobedience movement if martial law continues.

General Ershad, in an attempt to bring the opposition to the polls, said that he would wind up the military courts and abolish the martial law administrators' offices.

The two alliances have called a general strike for March 24, and have threatened to follow it up with a civil disobedience movement if martial law continues.

'Ivan the Terrible' trial Ukrainian denies he was a Nazi

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The man the Israelis call "Ivan the Terrible" made his first appearance before a court here yesterday and immediately denied that he had ever been in the Nazi death camp of Treblinka, let alone, in the words of the charge sheet, "participated in the murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians — men, women and children".

In the canteen of the Russian Compound police barracks, where the British once interrogated Jewish terrorists, a makeshift courtroom had been set up so that Deputy Commander Alex Ish-Shalom could apply for a 15-day remand in custody for "Mr Ivan John Demjanjuk, aged 66, lately of Cleveland, USA, at present under arrest in Israel."

Wearing the brown suit and open-neck shirt in which he arrived in Israel on Friday, Mr Demjanjuk was brought handcuffed in the special armoured car which will be used to take him to hearings from his high security cell at Ramla, 30 miles from Jerusalem.

Tall and thick-set, he has been described by prison service doctors as "very strong". While Mr Denis Gouldman, head of the State Attorney's international section, read out in Hebrew the charges, punishable by death, Mr Demjanjuk sat impassively, scratching his face and listening to a whispered Ukrainian translation.

Mr Aharon Simcha, president of the magistrates' court,

pointed out that the death sentence was possible under Sections 1 and 2 of the Nazi and Nazi Collaborators (Penalties) Law, but that it was not obligatory.

Mr Demjanjuk, blinking behind his thick, horn-rimmed spectacles in the harsh light of the television camera spotlights, was asked if he had anything to say.

Obviously frustrated at having the proceedings filtered through his interpreter, he asked if he could speak in English and was allowed to do so. Although he has lived in the United States since 1952, his English is heavily accented and very ungrammatical.

"Why am I here? I can't believe," he said. "I was never in the place you call Treblinka. I myself was in a prison camp of war."

He told the court he had never served the Nazis. He had been a prisoner and had been taken to Graz in Austria and asked to serve in a Ukrainian division by the Germans. "I am completely the wrong person you talk about," he said.

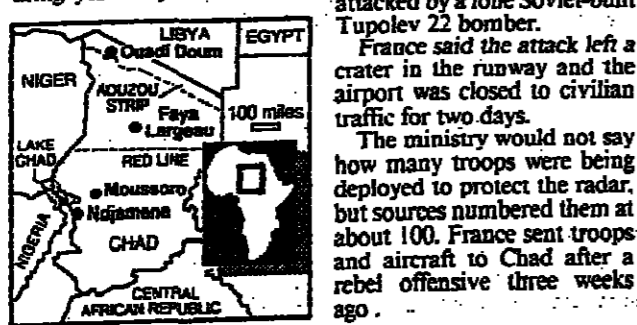
But the court, having briefly studied three of the thick files of evidence collected against him over the past 10 years, granted the remand in custody and he was hurried back to his armoured car.

In prison he has been refused permission to telephone his family in the United States and told that he must communicate with them by mail.

France deploys radar north of Ndjamena

Paris (Reuter) — France has deployed a radar system, guarded by its troops, in northern Chad for the first time since the latest fighting broke out.

The Defence Ministry said radar equipment began operating yesterday in Moussoro.



about 120 miles north-west of Ndjamena.

The radar was being used to provide better protection for Ndjamena airport in the event of air attacks.

The vulnerability of the airport was highlighted on February 17 when it was attacked by a lone Soviet-built Tupolev 22 bomber.

France said the attack left a crater in the runway and the airport was closed to civilian traffic for two days.

The ministry would not say how many troops were being deployed to protect the radar, but sources numbered them at about 100. France sent troops and aircraft to Chad after a rebel offensive three weeks ago.

Uganda puts ex-prisoner in its Cabinet

Kampala (AP) — A long-time opponent of former President Milton Obote who has spent eight of the past 20 years as a political prisoner has joined the new Cabinet.

The appointment of Mr Balaki Kurya as Minister of State in the President's office was announced on Uganda radio together with other Cabinet appointments. There are now 20 ministers in the Cabinet of President Museveni.

Five deputy ministers were also named, including the first woman given a ministerial post by President Museveni. Gertrude Njuba will be Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation, Mr Sebenna Kizito, is Minister for Regional Cooperation, Mr E. Kakonge, Local Government, and Mr John Niumba, Education.

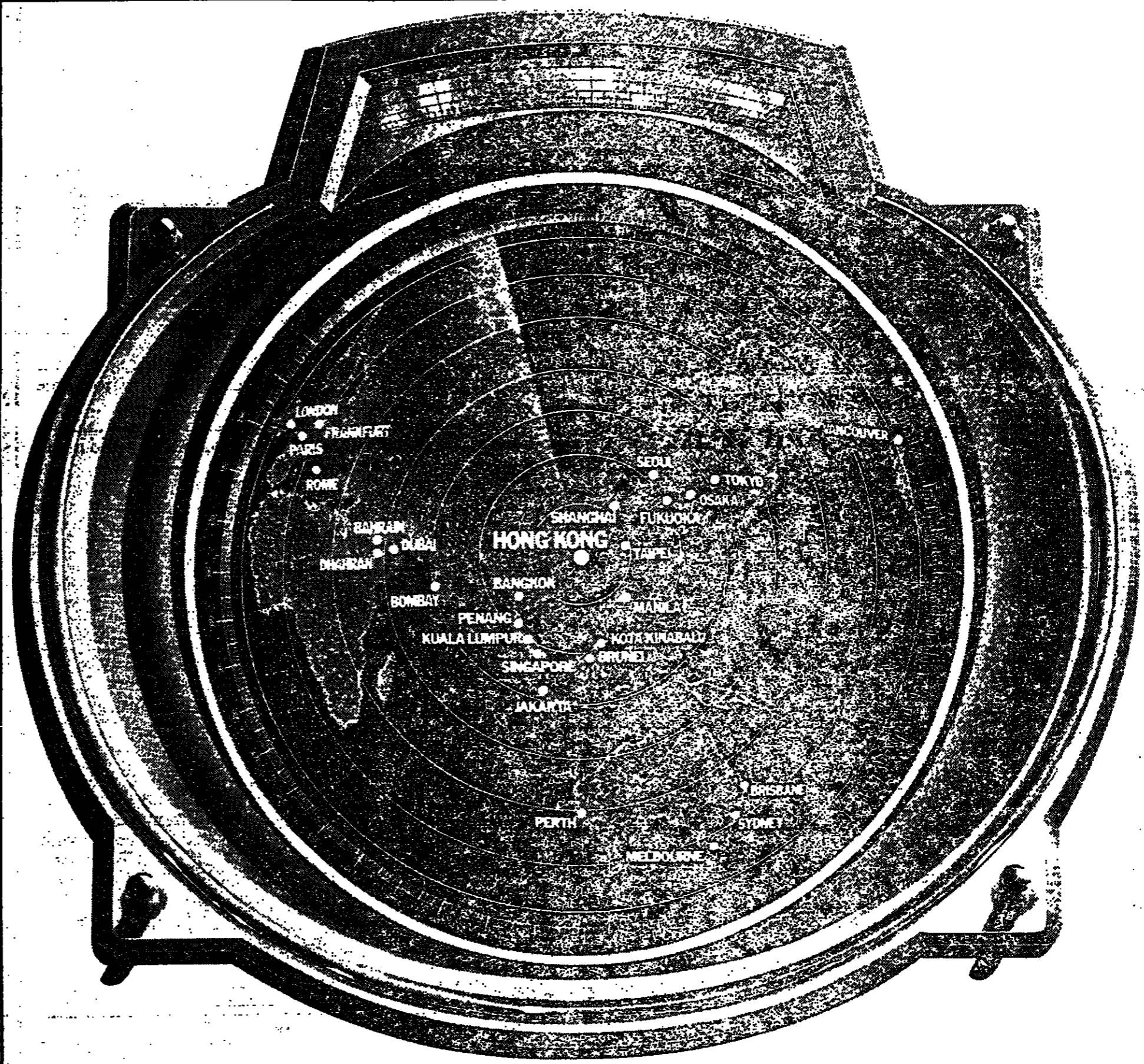
Income tax scrapped in Grenada

St George's, Grenada (Reuter) — Mr Herbert Blaize, the Grenada Prime Minister, announced that personal income tax would be abolished in his new budget, which he said would convert Grenada into an island of opportunities.

Mr Blaize has presented to Parliament a budget of 236.4 million East Caribbean dollars (about £58.3 million), which scrapped 16 other forms of taxation, including hotel occupancy tax and consumption and excise duties.

He also removed a levy imposed by the former Marxist government on salaries to help finance construction of the Point Saline airport.

Mr Blaize replaced the abolished taxes with a value added tax, a land value tax, a company tax and a petrol tax.



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It was set up with the admirable objective of providing a decent pension for every employee who wasn't properly looked after by a private company scheme.

In today's cold light of day, however, SERPS looks distinctly like bad news for everyone.

For not only are the pensions it promises to its members actually very poor value for money.

But the eventual cost of providing those pensions on a 'pay as you go' basis (the way Governments pay for everything) could end up making the Trident programme look like petty cash.



5. Your workforce will enjoy substantial benefits. And so will you.

The management of any responsible company will take pride in ensuring that its workforce is going to enjoy full financial security in retirement. But there are also more direct business reasons for starting your own company pension scheme.

Employees who are financially secure are likely to prove both more productive and more loyal. And you'll also find that a good pension scheme can be an important factor in persuading more good people to come and work for you.



2. The Government is planning to make it worse.

Well? What would you do? To its credit, the Government has decided to face the reality of SERPS, rather than bequeathing its unresolved problems to its successors in the 21st Century.

It is now introducing legislation to reduce the burden of SERPS on future generations.

Which, of course, means further reducing the value of future pensions many existing members can expect from SERPS.



6. Every day you waste means more money down the drain.

Even before the present Government began its review of pensions legislation, many companies had already elected to contract out of SERPS in order to provide better pension benefits for their employees at little cost to themselves.

Now the government has made clear its intention to run SERPS down, it makes even more sense to contract out.

Throwing good money after bad isn't a good idea, and since all contracted out schemes started now will automatically qualify for the extra 2% incentive when it becomes available, there is every reason to act immediately.



3. But it is prepared to give a subsidy of 6¼% of your wage bill if you set up your own company scheme.

Many companies don't realise that if they contract out of SERPS they qualify for a substantial saving on their National Insurance Contributions.

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4. It intends to offer another 2% subsidy soon.

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So keen are they to encourage firms to take over the role of providing employees with pensions, that the new Social Security Bill provides for the subsidy on contracted out schemes to be boosted by a further 2% of payroll costs as from early 1988.

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FAIR DEALS FOR RETIREMENT

A survey conducted in 10 countries indicates that the most disabling illness known to man has a biological basis

Schizophrenia: the root of the problem



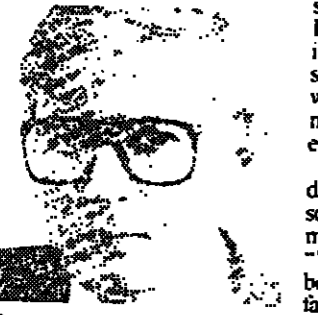
The forgotten illness

There are 17 million people in the world suffering from schizophrenia. A new study absolves families from most of the blame and suggests

that it is an illness and not a social condition. Marjorie Wallace reports

A worldwide epidemiological study of schizophrenia carried out by the World Health Organization over the last eight years will throw new light on the disease and may help to reveal its cause. It also has important implications for the way we cope with victims and the role played by their families.

that in all 10 countries the incidence of new cases of schizophrenia was virtually identical about one per cent, of whom half were serious cases. Because social and economic conditions vary so widely between the different countries, the study showed that schizophrenia is not brought on by particular socio-economic conditions.



Reassurance: Dr Jablensky

Dr Assen Jablensky, a Bulgarian epidemiologist and the Senior Medical Officer in WHO's Department of Mental Health last week told *The Times* the results of this study, due to be published in June. The survey, the first to quantify new cases, was started in 1977. It was carried out in 12 research centres in 10 countries - Colombia, Czechoslovakia,

Similarly, because family relationships and culture vary so greatly, it is very unlikely that families cause their children's schizophrenia. "The study should relieve any feelings of guilt", Dr Jablensky says. "Families cannot be blamed and those who take comfort from the evidence that schizophrenia has a biological basis should be further reassured". He believes the study demolishes the concept of the schizophrenic mother, who causes schizophrenia by a mixture of over-protection and expectations of independence.

But while culture and family do not affect the incidence of schizophrenia, they can dramatically alter its progress. "Where the schizophrenic can be contained within a large family network where the atmosphere is more supportive and less demanding, his chances of recovery are much higher", says Jablensky. In developing countries like Nigeria or India many patients suffer a single schizophrenic episode followed by complete recovery. In Nigeria, 58 per cent of those followed up were of this type. In India, it was 51 per cent. In Denmark, with smaller families, only 6 per cent recovered completely.



Paul Lenth

firmly in the WHO survey in both India and Denmark. In this and previous surveys, the pattern of poorer prognosis extended throughout the developed countries where up to half the patients became chronic schizophrenics.

There are also geographic differences in symptoms. In poor countries the onset of the illness is sudden, the patient has no previous signs, he comes from a stable family background and develops strong florid symptoms, such as hallucinations. His chances of remission after the first episode are good. By contrast, in richer countries, the patient is often socially withdrawn and lives alone or in an unstable family. There are more negative symptoms such as apathy, lack of

motivation and bleaching of emotion and the prognosis is worse. Despite widely differing cultures, patients all over the world described their symptoms with an eerie similarity. Hallucinatory voices discussed them in the third person, commenting on every action and thought. They felt their thoughts had been taken over or "read" by some alien agency, or broadcast at large. Patients in countries as different as Nigeria and Denmark described their feelings with almost the same words and phrases. This seems to point to a common biochemical cause. "I was surprised by what we found", says Dr Jablensky. "I expected there would be significant differences in the inci-

AN INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL

Nearly 30 years ago American psychoanalysts challenged the traditional view that schizophrenia was an illness which needed medical care. Steeped in the Freudian concept that all behaviour has its roots in infancy, they believed schizophrenia was caused by early conflicts in relationships, particularly with the mother. Victims should therefore be treated by psychoanalysis rather than drugs.

These ideas spread through Europe during the 1960s and 1970s, becoming entangled with flower-power, intellectual socialism, student protests, left-wing resistance groups like the Baader-Meinhof gang and neo-Marxist revolutionaries. As a result of these "reforms", thousands of destitute mental patients are crowding the streets of the major cities of Europe and America and their plight is becoming an international scandal. Now the pendulum is beginning to swing back. "The anti-psychiatry movements contain the seed of their own destruction", says Professor John Wing, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London. "A lot of what they say is based on fantasy. They want to make all mentally ill people normal. But in some cases the patient is too ill and it becomes obvious in the end that it is inhumane to put such pressure on him". The Times checked how the picture was changing in a number of countries.

UNITED STATES

The swing has been most dramatic in the United States. "There is now a universal realization that the running down and closing of mental hospitals was a disaster", says Dr Fuller Torrey, consultant psychiatrist at St Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington. "Only last year a Texan mental hospital sent weekly busloads of patients to Houston discharging them at the terminus with either 'Family' or 'Salvation Army' on their notes. Many had nowhere to go". Half the "bag ladies" and 37 per cent of homeless men are mentally ill. It is now a hot political issue and there are powerful lobby groups in Congress.

WEST GERMANY

In the 1960s the movement reached West Germany and became associated with various left-wing and libertarian causes. One of the most vehement was Dr Wolfgang Huber, of Heidelberg University, who attempted to put treatment into the hands of the patients. He became involved with the Baader-Meinhof gang and was imprisoned for possessing ammunition. Another group of young psychoanalysts, who called themselves the Mannheim Circle, also attempted to break away from the medical model. Through their efforts, psychiatry was redefined to exclude neurologists. "But none of them was able to change the mental health laws, or have a hospital closure policy adopted. 'Community care' is difficult to fund in Germany", says Dr Sten Manger, of the London School of Economics. "Unlike Britain, German health services are funded by insurance companies. Hospitals lose money when there are empty beds".

ITALY

The anti-psychiatry movement had its major triumph in Italy. "There was a tremendous ideological movement with student protests, worker protests and then the government saw it as a lovely way of cutting down on bills. As in other countries, it was a unique fusion of left and right-wing motives", says Professor Kathleen Jones of York University, who has studied Italian mental health reform. In 1978 communist-inspired legislation prevented new patients from being admitted. The asylums faced eventual closure and many of their patients were decanted into the community. The result was crowds of abandoned, as they became known, on roadsides and railway stations. Community care is supposed to be available, but when Professor Jones travelled through Italy in 1984, she found many areas had none.

UNITED KINGDOM

In the UK, a plan was put forward in 1961 to close many of the old-fashioned asylums. But it was nearly three years before the civil liberties people took up the Government's plan and the analyst Ronald Laing became a cult figure with his theory that families create madness. In the mid-1960s, Larry Gostin, an American lawyer, came to this country and, working with MIND (National Association for Mental Health) lobbied for hospitals to be closed and patients detained compulsorily. The movement has been successful in forcing changes to the Mental Health Act (1983) which make it more difficult to treat a patient who is so ill he refuses help.

FRANCE

Psychoanalysis has always been very popular in France and anti-psychiatry ideas were eagerly taken up, especially by the intellectual left and Communist Party. As in Germany, the definition of psychiatry was changed to exclude the neurologists. France has a programme of hospital closures and a

SWEDEN

Despite similar pressures from civil liberties groups, the Swedish government has adopted a cautious approach. "Politicians are slowing down the closure of mental hospitals and a report lobbying for reforms in mental health laws has just been rejected", says Dr Fritz-Axel Wiesel from the Karolinska Institute. "We are learning the lessons of America and Italy. We do not like big institutions but they are better than being discharged with no alternatives in the community".

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Cable and Wireless plc

A salmon's ally in the sky

Poaching is a big and lucrative business in Scotland. But river bailiffs are fighting back - from the air



Sky spy: spotting poachers from the air

David Smith, Inspector of Sea Fisheries for South East Scotland, scans the bleak stretch of estuary 500ft below. It is not a good day for poachers, with drizzle driven on a bitter wind, and a heavy swell hammering the Berwickshire coast. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland's patrol is cruising along at cliff-top height, so low that salt water has to be hosed off after each sortie.

"Surprise is the essence", Mr Smith, the flying water bailiff, says. "Radio warnings travel faster than aircraft. Poachers use scramble devices on the radio. Some give warnings in Gaelic. The way to catch them is to pounce over the cliff tops from the shore or sweep in from 20 miles out."

Each year the department spends £10 million guarding Scottish waters against all kinds of illegal fishing. The cover extends from Rockall, where the work is done by RAF Nimrod maritime surveillance aircraft, to the inshore waters, where combined tactics are used: the air patrol, a helicopter with fishery officers on board, a fleet of offshore patrol vessels and fast inflatable launches.

department's helicopter which had spotted an illegal net beneath a cliff, along the top of which ran a golf course. The aircraft radioed for ground assistance and hovered over the net to make sure no one moved it. The aircraft was then peeted with golfballs from the clifftop.

Infra-red night glasses, image intensifiers and radar have made even moonless nights wear balacava helmets to hide their identity from DAFS photographers. The cameras automatically record the position, time, date and heading of the vessel and this evidence is now accepted in court. One man accused of poaching told the court that he wore a balacava back to front to guard against jellyfish stings. Poachers now rarely look up when a patrol flies overhead.

Ronald Faux

With stiffer penalties and the risk of confiscation of vessel and tackle, the big boats shy away from poaching and leave it to small boats, often nameless, unmarked and of little value. The offshore patrol is very successful. In the time the Tweed Commissioners dealt with 118 cases in the estuary and upstream waters, the inshore patrol had only one case. But old loyalties die hard in fishing communities. "We have had threats, abuse and

some cases of stone throwing. We have had poachers breaking into property to retrieve confiscated nets and salmon. Someone drilled holes in the launch, but overall I believe we have turned the tables on them", Mr Smith says. The most bizarre retaliation was reported by the

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 889)

ACROSS

- 1 Light motorbike (5)
- 4 Nightclub show (7)
- 8 Guides (5)
- 9 Memory loss (7)
- 10 Music writer (8)
- 11 Ram away (4)
- 13 Sulk (1)
- 17 Mature (4)
- 18 Sinking (8)
- 21 Sudden wealth (7)
- 22 Scept (5)
- 23 Sheltered side (7)
- 24 Drive out (5)

DOWN

- 1 Evil intent (6)
- 2 Sacred song (5)
- 3 Empty (8)
- 4 Fillet steak (13)
- 5 Shelf-like bed (4)
- 6 Determine (7)
- 7 Journey (6)
- 12 Charge (8)
- 14 Trespass (7)
- 15 Clannish (6)
- 16 Acknowledge (6)
- 19 Casefile pact (5)
- 20 S. American Indian (4)

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Handwritten note at the top of the page: 'لا بد ان يكون'

THE TIMES DIARY

Short arm of the law

Members of the West Midlands constabulary may this week move towards jailing the county's police committee. The bizarre prospect arises from a long-running dispute over the force's rent allowances...

Off target

Those really in the know this year? Members of the public workers' union, Nupe. Thanks to the union's information-packed official diary they know that the peasant and partridge shooting season has just ended...

Is London Underground planning to reintroduce horse power following technical hitches this winter? A notice at Baker Street station last week read: "Oats and water free."

Regulars

Those who liken the House of Lords when the division bells ring to Brands Hatch wheelchairs tyres squealing as peers rush to vote - should not mock Lord Shinwell, who is 102 in October...

Double trouble

A politician friend couldn't believe his eyes when he read Robert Barnard's new political thriller Political Suicide about the mysterious death of a Tory MP. The prime suspect is the Labour candidate in the ensuing by-election...



And there at the end of the rainbow... was JMB

Voice under

I think I have found the man behind David Owen's odd speech in which he pleaded for more independent TV production companies and the cabling of Britain...

How Lawson can go for jobs

by Terence Beckett

The task facing Nigel Lawson in preparing his Budget - now only two weeks away - is not an enviable one. Although Treasury figures published last week suggest that government finances may be recovering...

Our objective is to make work more attractive to the low-paid, and to ease the poverty and unemployment traps. An increase in personal allowances by more than inflation would reduce relative poverty levels and provide help and incentives for the young unemployed...

700,000 new jobs have been created. Critics argue that many of these are part-time, and of no real value. But for many people with other commitments and interests, part-time jobs are exactly what they want...

Olof Palme was an unlikely representative of the egalitarian Sweden he sought to build. An upper-class intellectual, cosmopolitan in his attitudes and interests...

Geoffrey Smith pays tribute to Olof Palme, silver-spoon socialist who combined private courtesy with public abrasiveness

The enigma always ready to do battle



over the years. It certainly made him an engaging one. I recall an occasion in Karlstad during a general election campaign some years ago when, leaving his hotel dining room, he was approached by a young worker who had one arm around his girl and draped the other around the prime minister's shoulder...

the frustrations of bureaucracy and the mounting evidence of middle-class protest. By the mid-1970s these discontents had reached serious proportions and were one of the principal causes of the Social Democrats' electoral defeat in 1976.

Perhaps Erlander would have formed the same judgement had he remained in office. He was certainly more radical than was generally appreciated, and left-wing governments that hold office for a long time do face a dilemma...

Budget-cutters eye the Nato sacred cow

Washington President Reagan's televised winter offensive designed to win public support for his increasingly unpopular military build-up may signal hard times ahead for European defence programmes.

priorities are resulting in harsh scrutiny of the big items that have so far remained immune from the long arms of budget cutters. Of these, Nato is a prime target.

One study after another in recent months has taken aim at Nato as a "huge sacred cow" that can no longer be fed by American taxpayers.

former National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who have urged new approaches in Europe.

Anne Sofer Schooling: what London thinks

Regular readers of this column will recall the tale I told some weeks ago about the MORI opinion poll which the Inner London Education Authority partly misrepresented and partly suppressed.

Two tables showing survey results for state education quality. The first table compares 'Inner London' and 'Outer London' across 'Excellent', 'Very Good', 'Fairly Good', 'Fairly Poor', 'Very Poor', 'Terrible', and 'Don't Know'. The second table compares 'Agree' and 'Disagree' across 'Class AB', 'C1', 'C2', and 'DE'.

moreover... Miles Kington Get your free serf here

1986 is the 900th anniversary of the publication of the Domesday Book. Yes, that's right - 900 years ago the bookshops of England were stacked with copies of the Domesday Book...

Clifford Longley

Enduring lesson of martyrdom

Another 85 English Reformation martyrs of the Roman Catholic Church are soon to be beatified and raised to the status of "Blessed"...

Of the 85, whose "cause" was formally promoted to Rome in 1978 by Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster...

English history has rather written them off as unfortunate victims of the religious-political ferment of their time...

Nevertheless Elizabeth had been excommunicated by Pope Pius V, along with all who obeyed her...



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE March 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, President of The Royal London Society for the Blind...

Princess Anne, Senior Warden of the Company of Carmen, will attend a livery dinner on March 11 at the Mansion House.

Birthdays today

Mr Ernest Bradbury, 67; Miss Jean Hassall, 80; Air Vice-Marshal C.G. Moughtin, 63; Lord Mellish, 73...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Hanson and Miss H.L. Robson The engagement is announced between Daniel, elder son of the Right Rev R.P.C. and Mrs Hanson...

Mr N.R.P. Debenham and Miss S.E. Manger The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs F. Debenham...

Entries rise for bridge league

Entries in the British Bridge League's congress, held at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, over the weekend were up on last year's with 122 tables in play.

Westminster Cathedral Choir School

As a result of the recent voice trials, choral scholarships have been awarded to the following: Robert Lewis, Westminster Cathedral Choir School...

Princess Anne brings in from the cold a newly-born lamb



Princess Anne brings in from the cold a newly-born lamb born in freezing temperatures at Old Barn Farm, Cowbeech, near Hailsham, East Sussex, at the weekend (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy: Commodore J. S. B. Clarke to be Director General Maritime Operations... Major-General J. H. Thompson to be Director General Maritime Operations...

Luchoon

Huyton College Old Girls' Guild The Huyton College Old Girls' Guild luncheon was held at the Strand Palace Hotel on Saturday. Among those present...

Science report

Curing deafness with new blood

Better treatment could soon be available for those who suffer from recurrent bouts of deafness, giddiness and head-muzziness. Doctors in London have recently discovered that making changes to the blood of some people with those afflictions may improve their condition.

OBITUARY

MR OLOF PALME Swedish role on the world stage



Mr Olof Palme, who was assassinated in Stockholm on February 28 at the age of 59, was both the most controversial and the most internationally famous of Swedish Prime Ministers in modern times.

He held the office for 10 years out of the past 16, and had been re-elected for another term only last September.

That he should be controversial was perhaps inevitable for a left-wing Social Democrat from an upper-class background. Circumstances made it all the more likely.

It was during his six years as leader of the opposition that Palme was most active on the world scene.

Tommy Farr, who died on March 1 at the age of 71, was a boxer, who though he reigned briefly as British Empire Heavyweight champion before the war...

TOMMY FARR



Tommy Farr, who died on March 1 at the age of 71, was a boxer, who though he reigned briefly as British Empire Heavyweight champion before the war...

This was the apogee of his career. He stayed on in America until 1939 taking on the best of the American opposition...

His hon Judge Sir Thomas Williams Sir Thomas Williams, QC, a former Labour MP and, since 1981, a Circuit Judge, died on February 28 at the age of 70.

CHRISTIE'S LONDON Now is the time to sell at Christie's. Historical Royal Presentation Omega mounted ebony grande sonnerie spring clock by Thomas Tompion, London, no. 278. Sold at Christie's for £248,400.

Advertisement for THE MASSIE brandy. Includes text 'THE MASSIE' and 'THE HOUSE OF MASSIE'.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

PRIVATE SECRETARY £8,000+
We require a private secretary to work for the Group Surveyor. The selected applicant must be flexible and enjoy working under pressure.

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Our client, a leading professional West End firm, needs a confident Personnel Assistant extraordinary. The job is diverse, encompassing the recruitment and welfare of non-professional staff.

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Europe of the 21 Strasbourg, France seeks MALE/FEMALE SECRETARIAL STAFF. You will work in an intergovernmental organization which facilitates European unity and aims at improving the lives of Europeans.

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Superb opportunity for a lively secretary within one of London's most prestigious estate agencies.

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The European director of this expanding French bank needs a young secretary (C/L considered).

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You have excellent secretarial skills and a proven ability to work on your own.

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Young and bright and looking to get on in the world? We have a job for you.

STELLA FISHER
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A lively young shortlisted secretary will be working for a company in the financial services sector.

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An exclusive card offering temporarily a very special package of benefits. Join our temporary team and get...

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Manpower temporaries are people on their way up! Tough, but rewarding, assignments. Jobs where you use your skills - and widen them. Free training (WPs and PCs) to make you a machine all-rounder.

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£9,500 + 40% CLOTHES DISCOUNT
This internationally renowned fashion company are looking for a smart elegant person with a charming personality.

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and don't rely on the Budget. Get happy and secure working with our famous team of Guinness temps who delight to employ you with their Secretarial and WP skills.

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We need you now on our fully stretched young temporary team to work for a variety of interesting clients in the W.E. and City.

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FLEET SERVICES

1986 FLEET SERVICES

BASE
LEADING
RATES

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. Settlement day, March 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Year price per share. Rows include BUILDING AND ROADS, BREWERIES, DRAPERY AND STORES, ELECTRICALS, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E. Rows include BREWERIES, BUILDINGS AND ROADS, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E. Rows include FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E. Rows include E-K, HOTELS AND CATERERS, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E. Rows include INSURANCE, LEISURE, etc.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E. Rows include OIL, OVERSEAS TRADERS, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: Day (Mon-Fri), Dividend amount.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

UNDATED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS E-K table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS L-R table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS S-Z table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

PROPERTY table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHIPPING table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

TEXTILES table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

TOBACCO table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

PROPERTY table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHIPPING table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

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TEXTILES table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

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TOBACCO table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

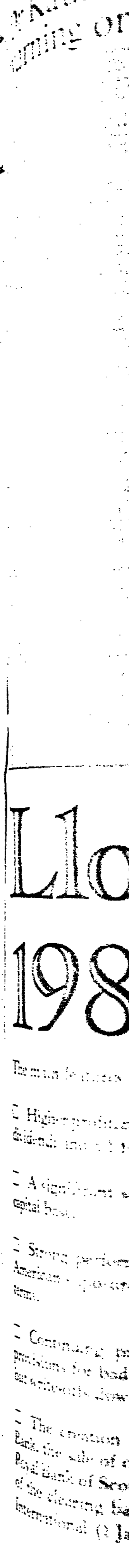
PROPERTY table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHIPPING table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

TEXTILES table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.

TOBACCO table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Gross, Div, Dividend, Dividend % P/E.



GILT-EDGED

Dr Kaufman's health warning on US bonds

New York, Friday, February 28, 8.59 am. Semi-shadow in the dealing room and the desks glow green from the consoles. The bond market opens in one minute; the atmosphere is tense. Sixty traders sit waiting for the off, watching the clock-like minutes about to go in.

On Thursday, the market moved as if shoved by a giant hand, and the commuter trains back to Connecticut were full of carousing bond dealers. Lust for bonds, whispers a trader; this market is devouring its young. In London, the long bond future is already one point ahead.

One minute, past nine — pandemonium. The shorts are ahead by 1/4 point. The futures contract is up by 229 basis points.

"The twos are hit, the twos are hit," screams a trader. The selling starts. Back comes the market. The long bond, faithful bellwether of the flock, swings through about 200 points in an hour as \$80 billion starts to hit the market with ferocity and ill-directed intensity.

Lunch here is taken on a tray in front of the screen. Ketchup, not Scotch, prevails. None complain, as they join in what, by common consent, seems like the greatest bond bull market of all time.

But over at New York Plaza, high above the East River in a bright, sun-filled study, a slight, almost frail figure is preparing to light a fire beneath the entire market. Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers is starting to raise some fairly fundamental questions about the yield base in the market.

"The markets," says Dr Kaufman firmly, "are going to have to demonstrate at some point in time that they are viable or can be stable in the face of economic expansion. They have not yet been tested on that."

Long yields of about 8.3 per cent look reasonable, according to Dr Kaufman. These have been achieved against a background of very favourable factors. Since mid-1984, he estimates that the US has enjoyed a sub-normal path of economic growth. Inflationary fears have been dampened by lower oil prices. The Federal Reserve has been exceedingly accommodative.

And market are bullish, Dr Kaufman goes on. In this setting, even the bearish elements are transmitted.

But inflation, he warns, is bottoming out. Some time in the second half of this year, a weaker dollar should start impacting on the US price structure. Oil price trends, too, are very hard to track. Will another sharp crack in prices, for example, induce fears of a countervailing bounce back?

Oil price uncertainty is paralleled by dollar fears. So far, notes Dr Kaufman, the decline in the dollar has been orderly. Hence, there has been no shift in the pattern of international investment away from the US.

"I don't believe the Japanese are going to stop buying American securities. The uncertainty is whether other foreign buyers of US securities will pull away in favour of investment in other economies," he suggests.

Germany and Japan should benefit far more than the US from falling oil prices. The value of their currency is up, and oil is priced in dollars. Their inflation rates shortly could be close to zero, just as US inflation begins to rise. Not by much, Dr Kaufman says, but by enough to tilt the balance of emphasis.

Market sentiment is also threatened by a twin attack, on both the supply and demand sides of the US credit picture.

"I think that American monetary policy will remain expansionary for virtually all of this year," says Dr Kaufman. "The Fed will not change policy. It has been very expansionary, and very accommodating. The infusion of bank reserves has been very, very large."

America is heading for a good year. Perhaps 1987 could be even better. But later in the year, this means that some of the money numbers will be less than attractive to the market. Credit demand by US corporates ought to be exuberant.

"In the last 1 1/2 years, with subnormal economic growth, business community demand for credit has been moderate. The rise in inventories has decelerated. Last year, in the fourth quarter, it was a minus figure. But this on-going pressing down of US business inventories cannot be pressed down much further with improvement in the pace of economic expansion."

Dr Kaufman's analysis may or may not be correct; time will tell. But there exists a visible correlation between his well-laid hints that the US markets may be approaching a turning point and the current composition of US yields. A Kaufman prediction would stand a reasonable chance of self-fulfilment because of the volatility now built into the US yield curve.

A fortnight ago, the spread between two-year notes and 30-year bonds was broadly 90 points. Mid-week last week, it was nearer 70 points. Following the market's huge surge, it was closer to 55 points. The flattening of the US yield curve means that extension premiums have well-nigh disappeared.

But if the market is now to make further progress, and the push continues to come from the longs, then the yield curve will start to invert fairly shortly. This would be a silly curve, since, pro forma, it would define US monetary policy as tight, even though the Fed would resist the definition, and the market does not expect it.

Easier short-term rates? LWA weakness seems to rule this out, and central banking activity round the world last week offered no change on the official hard-line attitude. The Bundesbank was particularly intransigent.

Yield curves, however, are moving. Heracleitian things, especially in the highly charged New York atmosphere. And if the market has nowhere to go on the bull track, then it must be an even money bet that the bears will move in. The long end has plenty of scope for an upward flip, after the toboggan ride of the last few weeks. Yields now look overbought.

The message for the gits market from Dr Kaufman's comments is clear. Do not be surprised, chagrined or even just disappointed, if markets come back. *Quid enim salvis infamia nummis?* — take the money and run?

Christopher Dunn
Orion/Royal Bank

Laing Wimpey Alireza — the Saudi Arabian joint venture company owned by the British "construction" companies, John Laing and George Wimpey, and a Saudi partner — has been put into liquidation after non-payment of more than £16 million for work on major projects.

The move follows the sudden withdrawal by Laing and Wimpey of all expatriate staff from Saudi Arabia in November and the subsequent failure of their efforts to resolve the company's financial position.

Before the decision to pull out the two British companies had funded the company's shortfall without any contribution from their local partner, the Alireza family, A Saudi lawyer, Dr Abdullah al-Munifi, has been appointed liquidator, and Laing and Wimpey are to submit a claim for these sums by the March 10 deadline.

It is understood that, at the time of the withdrawal, all construction work had been completed, but substantial sums were owed to LWA.

They included 25 million riyals (£4.6 million) from the Ministry of Health in relation to Jubail Hospital; 33 million riyals (£6.1 million) from Arabian Inns and Catering for the Holiday Inn, Jeddah; 30 million riyals (£5.5 million) from the Ministry of Health for the hospitals at Al Midhlab and Al Bukayriyah; and certified sums outstanding on other contracts for several years.

LWA is equally owned by the three partners.

Mr Angus Shure, of Fielding Newton-Smith, the stockbroker, estimated write-offs at up to £10 million by each company to cover unpaid sums and the cost of withdrawing from Saudi Arabia.

Under Saudi law the liquidator must provide a statement of affairs within three months. Dr al-Munifi has asked for the assistance of former LWA staff and, has assured their safe entry and exit from the Kingdom.

The Health Ministry projects director, Mr Mohammed al-Guwaihes, said last month that Saudi Arabia would call a performance bond of more than 20 million riyals (£3.7 million) for failing to properly complete the three hospital contracts.

UK-Saudi building venture in liquidation

By Teresa Poole

The Isle of Man Parliament is to keep British Telecom as its public telecommunications provider.

If BT had lost the competition to Cable & Wireless for these 25,000 telephone subscribers, the direct financial consequence would have been minuscule. In 1984/85, the island bought BT just £5.4 million in revenue and £1.4 million in profits, just under 0.1 per cent of its total turnover.

So why all the fuss? And why did BT agree to pay £7.5 million to the Manx Government and £250,000 each year for the next 20 to have its licence renewed?

The new privatized BT is keen to prove itself commercially and wants to form and acquire new businesses, especially overseas. To have lost the Isle of Man would not only have been a blow to its pride but may have damaged its chances to get contracts elsewhere, like Sri Lanka, where again it is tendering against Cable & Wireless.

But the price to pay for the island could be a lot more than the £7.5 million plus £250,000 yearly for the next 20 years. BT is to form a new company, Manx Telecom, and the Manx Government may take a stake in it.

The profit and loss account of Manx Telecom will make interesting reading, especially for BT watchdog Ofel, because it will be BT's first breakout business. Indeed, it could help Ofel to review and perhaps amend BT's whole pricing structure in Britain.

BT pays a high price for Isle of Man contract

Manx subscribers may also be pleasantly surprised as BT has agreed to cut its charges to them by about 15 per cent when the new licence becomes effective in January, 1987.

The Isle of Man, being a fairly wealthy place, is not exactly representative of Britain but we must place it alongside Kingston-upon-Hull, which is the other little bit of Britain where telephone charges could be substantially cut.

Hull Corporation is the only independent local telephone service provider in the country. Its long-distance calls go via BT and currently BT takes all the revenue from those calls, but still, Hull made a profit of £4.1 million on local revenues of £17.4 million from its 150,000 subscribers last year.

If negotiations to share the long-distance revenue more equally with BT are successful, Hull could also be cutting charges next year. Its local service (rental of telephone and local calls) is already cheaper than BT's.

Even if Ofel did not exist, these price cuts would command some public attention. Public pressure has already forced BT to cut telephone charges in some of the Scottish Islands groups, such as Orkney and the Hebrides. Why should BT give in to such pressure when it has a monopoly? The simple answer is, it no longer has a monopoly and thus the big guns are trained on a rather ponderous target.

Mercury Communications, now wholly owned by Cable & Wireless, has a licence to compete with BT and is already providing private telephone circuits, mainly to large companies for their internal networks. By the early summer, it will have some of its own all-digital telephone exchanges and could be offering a lower priced service to one third of Britain's telephone users next year. But Mercury will be almost wholly a long-distance telecom supplier with only limited local networks — it would be too expensive to re-lay all its cables even though it is doing so in areas like the City of London.

So Mercury will be looking for cost-effective ways to access other local networks. The biggest of these will be BT itself. Last October, Ofel granted Mercury the right of access to BT's network at rates equivalent to a 60 per cent discount on BT's public tariffs. In time, this will allow Mercury to win new subscribers from BT because anyone with a telephone will be able to use Mercury by dialling a code. Indeed, Mercury will soon start selling its own telephones which will dial the extra digits automatically.

We expect that by 1988, Mercury will be serving one million of BT's, by then 22.5 million subscribers from Exter to Aberdeen. By 1990, most business and many domestic customers will be using Mercury for at least some long-distance calls because they will be cheaper than BT by 10 to 30 per cent.

Mercury's revenues could near £1 billion by 1990 with a profit contribution to Cable & Wireless in the £100 million to £200 million range.

The combination of direct loss of revenue and lower prices due to competition could deprive BT of something like £1.5 billion of revenue by the end of this decade.

Of course, the market for telecommunications will continue to grow from just over £4 billion in 1985 to perhaps £6.5 billion by 1990, but BT will find it difficult to show any growth at all in telephone call revenue during the period of Mercury's fastest growth, probably 1988 or 1989. This will be a completely new situation for BT, whereas privatizing the company gave it the short-term opportunity to exploit a monopoly, the longer-term process of competition will make life much more difficult. BT could easily be reporting profit reductions before the decade is out.

The speed with which all this could come about depends on market dynamics and the growth of public awareness. Most BT subscribers have no idea what Mercury offers. But once the service begins to catch on, things could happen quickly. A really neat way to get the ball rolling would have been to win the Isle of Man franchise.

No doubt BT will go to extraordinary lengths to defend Hull too.

Bill Dixon
The author is telecommunications analyst at the broker Scott, Goff, Layton

ORDINARY SHARES

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY — Interims: Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation, Michael Peters Group, Ramar Textiles, Finals: T F and J H Beane Holdings, British Vita, Mitrovic.

TOMORROW — Interims: Telexnet, Finals: Bladen Industries, BSR International, Fisons, The Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, Johnstone's Paints, National Westminster Bank, The Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust, Provident Financial Group, Stat-Plus Group.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: Atwoods, Galliford, Midland Bank, William Sinclair Holdings, Finals: Anglo American Gold Investment, Co (expected March 6), Aut and Wiborg (amended), Commercial Union Assurance Co, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance, Heywood Williams Group, Tavener Rutledge.

THURSDAY — Interims: Barclays Bank (2nd), Johnson Matthey, Kleinwort Benson Eurobond Fund, Mitchell Cotts, Shires Investment, Finals: Biomechanics, Cadbury Schweppes, Corah, Bife Indmar, Ingem, Stockholders Far East Investments, TI Group, James Wilkes.

FRIDAY — Interims: Consolidated Plantations Berhad, Finals: Alliance Trust, Anglo-Siam Darby Berhad.

Kleinwort Benson

With effect from 1st March 1986 the Kleinwort, Benson Limited mortgage rate will be 13.5% per annum, and the personal loan base rate will be 12.5% per annum.

Lloyds Bank 1985 Results

- The main features of 1985 were:
- Higher profit, earnings per share and dividend; and a 1 for 2 scrip issue.
 - A significant strengthening of our capital base.
 - Strong performance in UK; Latin American exposure reduced in sterling terms.
 - Continuing prudent approach to provisions for bad and doubtful debts, but write-offs down.
 - The creation of Lloyds Merchant Bank, the sale of our investment in the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the merger of the clearing bank and Lloyds Bank International (1 January 1986).

"1985 was a year in which we significantly strengthened our capital base and reduced our relative exposure to international debt problems. The excellent results allow us to increase the dividend and we propose a further 1 for 2 scrip issue. We shall continue to push forward in 1986."

Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman of Lloyds Bank Plc

LLOYDS BANK PLC
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1985

	1985	1984	Increase
Profit Before Tax	£561m	£468m	20%
Profit After Tax	£331m	£237m	40%
Post-Tax Return on Average Total Assets	0.77%	0.55%	
Post-Tax Return on Average Equity	15.1%	12.1%	
Earnings Per Share	93p	65p	43%
Dividends Per Share	21.0p	17.7p	19%
Dividend Cover	4.4 times	3.7 times	

Dividend

The Directors of Lloyds Bank Plc have declared a final dividend for the year ended 31 December 1985 of 13.5p per share (1984: 11.4p adjusted for the one for two capitalisation issue in 1985), making a total for the year of 21.0p per share (1984: 17.7p). With the related tax credit this is equivalent to 30.0p per share (1984: 25.2p). The final dividend is payable on 4 April 1986 to shareholders registered on 12 March 1986.

Proposed one for two scrip issue

The Directors will recommend to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting the issue of one new fully paid ordinary £1 share for every two shares held. Subject to shareholders' approval, the new shares will be issued to holders on the register on 30 May 1986.

Further information

Further details of Lloyds Bank's 1985 results may be obtained from: Corporate Communications Division, Princess House, 152/156 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3UJ. Telephone: 01-929 2777.



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March 3, 1986

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON AUSTRALIA/1

The big shift towards the East

The Queen's visit to Australia, which will take her to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide over the next 10 days, reminds us once again of the deep historical and personal links between our two countries. And yet, as Australians prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of British settlement in 1988, their day-to-day concerns are overwhelmingly with the Asia-Pacific region of which geographically they are a part.

Two facts illustrate this orientation. First, the alliance with the United States, which has guaranteed the country's security since the Second World War, and, second, trade with Japan, which for two decades has been the largest export market.

In recent years Australia has played a more independent role in the region. Gough Whitlam, who came to power with Labor in 1972, withdrew Australian troops from South Vietnam, recognized China, opened relations with North Vietnam and North Korea, and chose Papua New Guinea and Indonesia for his first overseas trip as Prime Minister. Although his Liberal (conservative) successor, Malcolm Fraser, had different priorities, he did not substantially reverse this trend. The Labor government which has held office since 1983 under Bob Hawke has sought to strengthen ties with South-East Asia in a more pragmatic way than Mr Whitlam, with the emphasis on economic cooperation.

Bill Hayden, the foreign minister, has tried, so far without success, to act as honest broker between Viet-

nam and the Asian countries over Cambodia. However, he does seem to have succeeded in burying the hatchet with Indonesia over East Timor. The visit of Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the foreign minister, in December was remarkable for the absence of heat on this issue and there is now talk of President Suharto coming to Canberra.

In foreign policy matters Mr Hawke has concentrated on the ANZUS crisis and trade with China. The quarrel between New Zealand and the United States over the visits of American nuclear powered or armed vessels has cemented the relationship between Canberra and Washington. Australians seem to have decided that their country, with its proximity to the great Asian land mass, cannot afford a gesture such as New Zealand's, and support for the alliance is at an all-time high.

The Americans have been irritated by Mr Hawke's dithering over whether or not to cooperate in MX missile tests in the South Pacific (he eventually decided against) and by Mr Hayden's push in the United Nations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. However, these differences appear to have been worn comfortably in the light of Canberra's firm commitment to the alliance.

The two countries operate three joint facilities in Australia, including an early warning satellite ground station and a communications centre used mainly for keeping in touch with submerged nuclear submarines.

Relations with China have



been a particular concern of the last three Prime Ministers, although Mr Fraser used them as an anti-Soviet card. The value of Australian exports, mainly wheat, wool and iron ore, rose by over 70 per cent in fiscal 1984/85 to nearly \$A1,056 million (about £528 million) and negotiations are underway for China to invest in an iron ore mine, a blast furnace and an aluminium

Australia has a trade surplus with Japan

smelter in Australia. However, two-way trade with Taiwan is still worth more than that with China.

Australia is one of the few countries to have a trade surplus with Japan (\$A1,247 million in 1984/85). However, the Japanese share of total

exports reached a peak 10 years ago while its portion of imports has steadily increased, overtaking that of the United States for the first time in 1983/84.

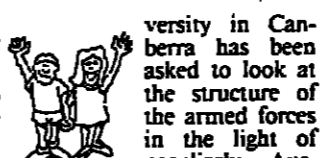
As a former administrative power, Australia maintains close relations with Papua New Guinea, to which it supplies about \$A200 million in aid a year. \$A140 million towards the budget and the rest as project and defence grants. The vulnerability of the Papua New Guinean economy and the tension with Indonesia over Melanesian guerrillas in Irian Jaya who seek refuge in PNG are causes of concern to Canberra; Australia's nearest neighbour remains a potential flashpoint.

In the South-West Pacific, Canberra has taken the initiative in getting the South Pacific Forum, which groups Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands, to endorse a

South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty. The area is of great strategic interest to Australia and Mr Hayden is due to tour it later this year. The future of New Caledonia, French nuclear testing, the fisheries agreement between Kiribati and the Soviet Union, and the danger of Libyan involvement will be high on his agenda.

Although the Hawke government is making its mark in the Asia/Pacific region it could be argued that it is following a series of *ad hoc* initiatives rather than a coherent external strategy.

Perhaps that will emerge only after a review commissioned by Kim Beazley, the defence minister, is published later this year. Paul Dibb of the Australian National Uni-



versity in Canberra has been asked to look at the structure of the armed forces in the light of peculiarly Australian, as opposed to allied, requirements. While leaving the alliance with the United States intact, Australia will in future place more emphasis on defending its own vast territory. This is likely to be done by a combination of maritime strike capability and lightly armed ground forces which can be deployed rapidly. Such a concept is a retreat from wider responsibilities within the Western alliance but it does correspond more closely to the pronounced regional bent of Australian foreign policy.

Simon Scott Plummer

An uphill fight for Honest John

John Winston Howard took over as leader of the Liberal Party in extraordinary circumstances on September 5, 1985. His predecessor, Andrew Peacock, had set out to remove him as his deputy after Mr Howard had refused to declare he would not seek election to the leadership before the next federal poll.

The move backfired disastrously for Mr Peacock. Mr Howard defeated the challenger for the deputy's post by 38 votes to 31. Mr Peacock then resigned and Mr Howard was elected leader of the party by 57 votes to six with seven abstentions.

His accession has brought a new look to the leadership of the Opposition, which has traditionally been dominated by the Victorian Establishment. Mr Howard is from a small business background - his father ran a garage - in New South Wales. Both he and his deputy, Neil Brown, went to state schools and the Liberals' leader and deputy leader in the Senate are both Roman Catholics.

It also marks a swing to the right in the party, which distinguishes it more sharply from a conservative Labor government than under Mr Peacock. Mr Howard supported Labor's deregulation of the financial market but would like to extend this to the labour market. This is anathema to the unions and a government whose political platform is based on their support. He also favours selling off parts of the public sector.

Mr Howard, who is 46, is a small, bespectacled man with a ruddy complexion and thinning grey hair. He has a reputation for honesty, a quality evident in an interview with *The Times* in his office in Parliament House, Canberra, during which he answered questions simply and directly.

He said he had been interested in politics for as long as he could remember and recalled the 1949 election, when Robert Menzies returned to power and when petrol ration-

ing was a big issue. Menzies, Churchill and Mrs Gandhi are people whose strength he admires and he also respects Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan for the way they have captured the public mood.

After graduating in law from Sydney University in 1961 Mr Howard joined a firm of solicitors. In 1974 he was elected to the federal parliament as member for the Sydney suburb of Bennelong, which he still represents. He and his wife, Janette, and their three children, a girl and two boys, live in Wollstonecraft, another Sydney suburb.

Mr Howard was appointed Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs and commerce in March 1975 and, after the Liberal-National Party coalition returned to power later that year, became successively Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, Minister of State for Special Trade Negotiations,



John Howard: A new look to Opposition leadership

Minister for Finance, and Treasurer. The last portfolio he held from 1977 to 1983. He became deputy leader of the Liberals in 1982.

In the six months since he assumed the leadership of the Opposition Mr Howard has had an uphill struggle to convince the country that he could beat Bob Hawke in a general election. Whatever the problems of the present government - and they are many - Mr Hawke has retained his popularity as a good bloke who

Continued on page 2

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Growth, but no safety margin

The Labor government has succeeded beyond all expectations with its "dash for growth" and "jobs now" economic strategy in the past three years, achieving this in the face of both a commodity price slump and subdued growth among Australia's trade partners.

Growth has been running at more than four per cent a year, faster than in virtually all the industrial economies, and Australia's best performance in a quarter of a century.

Unemployment has fallen a couple of points to eight per cent, the country is having its fourth year of industrial stability, corporate profit share is returning to late 1960s levels, and labour costs are now below the late 1960s level. For all that, there is a penalty for governments that ignore the orthodoxies, especially when inflation rates are out of step with those of trading partners.

Australia's 8.2 per cent, including a couple of points for last year's devaluation, compares with about 5.5 per cent for Britain, 3.6 per cent for the United States, 1.9 per cent for Japan and 1.8 per cent for West Germany.

Paul Keating, the Treasurer, argues that the real index of competitiveness is labour costs, where Australia's real unit costs rose half a point less than the key trading partners' over 1984/85. With a 6.1 per cent rise expected over 1985/86, it would be only a point above the average overseas.

However, international scepticism is reinforced when Australia's economic growth is fuelled by big budget deficits and when the growth is dependent on heavy borrowing offshore to fund an exceptionally weak balance of payments (an expected current account deficit for 1985/86 of about \$A12 billion).

The result has been a devaluation of the Australian dollar by currency markets last year of about 20 per cent. To keep the dollar at its present level of around 68-71 US cents, the government is having to run



A bird's eye view of Sydney's business district

economy heavily in hock to overseas lenders and now subject to sharply deteriorating world prices on its major exports.

The accord mark II for the two years from October 1985 has underwritten real wages with the bonus of improved workforce superannuation and a shorter working week.

What worries the market is that, given a choice between averting a rise in unemployment and keeping the Australian dollar high, the Labor government would use monetary and fiscal policy to support employment. This would imply acceptance of a weaker dollar later this year and a sudden end to the bullish mood of foreign investors.

Labor's new "trilogy" policy promises are for no rise in federal tax as a proportion of GDP over the life of the current parliament, a similar no-rise policy for spending and a cut in the deficit-gdp ratio in the same period.

The burst of economic growth in the wake of the devaluation early last year has enabled Mr Keating to meet the "trilogy" targets in 1985/86. If growth now slows, heavy spending cuts are going to be needed.

While the country has enjoyed its binge of growth, the business community has remained apprehensive, and capital investment has run down to surprisingly low levels. A further problem is the slow pace at which industrial restructuring is being achieved through cuts in protection of Australia's least efficient industries.

Generally, the manufacturing sector is uncompetitive on world markets and acts as a drag on both rural and tertiary sector efficiency. The problem is compounded because high-value-added manufactured goods are the major area of growth in world trade patterns.

Tony Thomas

Accountancy Editor
Business Review Weekly,
Melbourne.

Two-airline policy under review

In a country the size of Australia, air travel is the most convenient way of moving between cities. However, the airline system is quite different from that of the United States.

Whereas the US market has been deregulated since 1978, the Australian is strictly controlled by a policy which provides for two carriers, Ansett and Trans Australia Airlines (TAA), to fly trunk routes within the country and a third, Qantas, to be the sole international carrier.

This domestic duopoly, in which the two airlines have similar capacity, charge the same fares and, in the main, fly the same routes at approximately the same time, is under review.

Ansett, a private company owned jointly by Sir Peter Abeles' TNT and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, wants to leave things largely as they are, arguing that there has not yet been time to evaluate fully changes in the policy introduced in 1981 to foster competition.

TAA, which is state-owned, wishes, like Ansett, to retain the two-airline system. But it advocates greater freedom to set fares and to decide on how its fleet should be used. It would also like access to intrastate and to some international routes.

East-West Airlines is out to break their duopoly. Owned by Ric Stowe, a West Australian millionaire, it sees the present system as stifling innovation and making air travel unnecessarily expensive, and is calling for gradual deregulation.

In an attempt to force the pace of change, East-West has challenged the two-airlines policy in the High Court on the grounds that it contravenes Section 92 of the constitution, which guarantees free trade and commerce between the states.

Though it is Australia's overseas carrier, Qantas, which, like TAA, is government-owned, has made a submission to the review body because it wants restoration of the right to carry on the domestic sectors of its international

services (eg. Sydney-Perth) passengers brought to Australia by foreign airlines.

The government is expected to introduce changes but, because it is the owner of one of the two main domestic carriers, these are unlikely to be drastic.

However, things could look very different if the two-airline policy is ruled unconstitutional by the High Court.

Turning to the international scene, Qantas's current worry is the advent of United Airlines in the Pacific. The largest American carrier, United has bought Pan American's assets in the region and began flights to Australia last month. Qantas fears that with its strong domestic base and lower labour costs, United will be able to offer big discounts on its overseas flights.

On the "kangaroo" route between Australia and Britain, Qantas and British Airways estimate they have between 40 and 50 per cent of the market. BA increased its flights to 10 a week last December and Qantas will follow suit next month.

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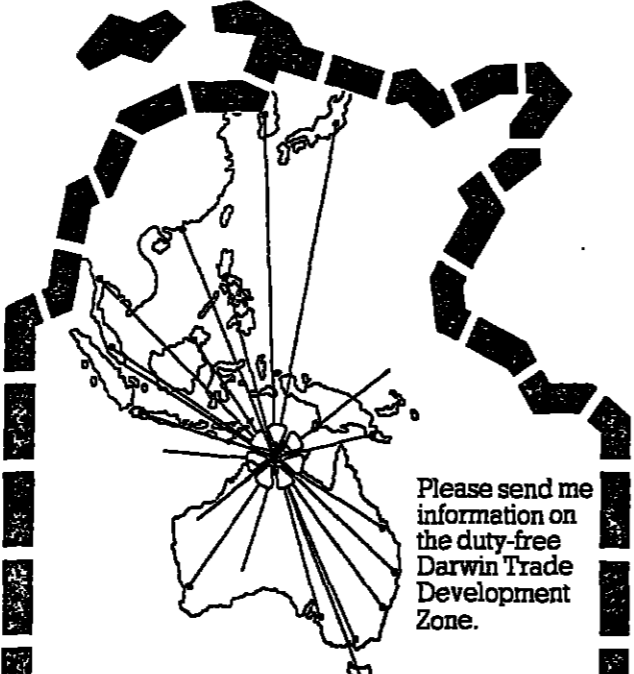
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Annual General Meeting

Group operating profit after tax in 1984/85 amounted to almost \$302 million, an increase of 30.1%. This result must be placed into perspective with the major changes that have taken place within Australian financial markets. It was inevitable that Australian banks would gain something from the initial round of deregulation. Indeed, it would have been an unhealthy sign if they had not.

The second round of changes within the financial industry involves establishment of the new bank entrants. There always has been strong competition within the banking industry, but the next five years is going to be something of a watershed, as the new entrants make their bids for a viable share. The success of 1984/85 has provided National Australia Bank with an excellent start and it is revamping its strategies to meet these new competitive challenges.

The Bank was first to offer payment systems to the new banks and non-banks seeking agency access. Innovations in deposit and lending products are taking place, some of which are well ahead of those being offered by overseas banks in their domestic markets. A new zone concept will place specialist service and advice closer to people in branches to maintain and enhance customer relationships.

At the same time, the Bank is taking advantage of the increased opportunity foreign bank entry is providing to extend and upgrade its presence overseas. It has also established National Australia Life Limited to enter the Life Insurance market.

National Australia Bank Limited

Highlights of the Chairman's Address

Economic Outlook

The broader economic outlook suggests a difficult operating environment in the near term. High real rates of interest strike at the very heart of economic growth and development. Real rates of interest of well over 10% per annum, stifle investment and our ability to achieve productivity gains. New investment in productive economic ventures cannot be forced and markets must be allowed to operate unfettered. A healthy stable environment, devoid of the uncertainties associated with high real interest rates, is an essential prerequisite.

Of great concern is the resurgence of inflation and the perceived lack of confidence in the Australian dollar. Undoubtedly a tight monetary stance is a necessary strategy in these circumstances. However, it should not be allowed to bear the full brunt of deflationary policy. It will also be necessary to reduce or postpone government expenditure and restrain wages growth. To maintain pressure on interest rates for too long may well prove highly detrimental to the nation's medium term prospects.

Rising domestic costs and low returns are severely impacting on farm incomes and depressing property values. The agricultural policies of the European Economic Community and the United States of America are distorting markets and resulting in a poor outlook for commodity prices. The Bank strongly encourages the Federal Government to maintain its protest on these issues and for its part the Bank, as a major lender to the rural sector, will continue to sympathetically treat viable farmers in difficulty.

Ultimately the success of National Australia Bank is going to be closely bound to the future prosperity of our own country. As a financial intermediary we have an important role to play but we can only play that role if the economic climate is supportive. Many more hard decisions have yet to be made before we can look forward to this country reaching the very considerable potential it undoubtedly possesses.

Sir Robert Law-Smith,
Chairman of Directors,
Melbourne,
January 23, 1986.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Year ended September)

	1983 (\$m)	1984 (\$m)	1985 (\$m)
Total Group assets	23,283	27,505	35,329
Group operating profit (after tax)	161	228	302
Earnings per share	62c	70c	88c
Dividend per stock unit	23c	25c	27.5c



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Honest John's uphill fight

Continued from page 1

understands the feelings of the ordinary Australian.

In an opinion poll published in the weekly magazine The Bulletin last month, half of those questioned supported Labor, compared to 42 per cent for the Liberal-National coalition. However, when it came to who would make the better Prime Minister, Mr Howard scored only 19 per cent against Mr Hawke's 66 per cent.

As well as taking on Labor, Mr Howard has had to consolidate his position within the Liberal Party after his surprising victory last September.

This he appears to have achieved to a large extent and it will be interesting to see whether he and his party will now be able to take advantage of the government's weak points.

These include one of the most serious crises ever to affect Australian farmers, stagnation in mining (apart from gold), high interest rates, a huge current account deficit, soaring debt, a retreat over tax reform in the face of union opposition, and a failure, for revenue reasons, to pass on fully to consumers the benefits of the drop in world oil prices.

The Liberals will have no lack of targets to attack between now and the next federal election, and in the current session of parliament, which began last month, they are adopting more aggressive tactics towards their opponents than they did before Christmas.

The question is whether "Honest John" Howard can capitalize on Labor's difficulties and emerge as a popular leader. Evidently he intends to try a more hard-hitting approach. "The Opposition is for black and white," he told The Times. "Shades of grey are for the government."

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Further information on the Business Migration Program is available at the nearest Australian overseas mission or any Regional Office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in Australia.



BMP

Australia's Business Migration Program

King Coal is still mining the big money

Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy, spoke at an international mining conference last August of an emotional resistance in Australia to being typecast as "a quarry and a farm for the rest of the world".

But the fact is that the dominance of minerals and oil, which account for 49 per cent of Australia's exports (compared with agriculture's 39 per cent) is, if anything, only likely to increase.

Recent Sydney Stock Exchange surveys forecast that coal, already Australia's leading export, will account within the next two years for more foreign revenue than the combined total of the number two and three earners, wheat and wool.

Coal and oil together bring in 55 per cent of mineral earnings, compared with nine per cent for aluminium, eight per cent for iron ore and four per cent for bauxite. All precious metals and gems account for only four per cent. The industry is based around bulky, low-value commodities for which transport is a major determinant of costs.

The common belief is that last year's sharp fall in the value of the Australian dollar has enabled mining companies to sustain a slow and patchy recovery from the

1981-82 recession. But the influential annual survey by the Australian Mining Industry Council (Amic), conducted by Coopers and Lybrand and released in December, sounded a cautionary note.

Despite a substantial increase in 1984-85 in sales volume and increased profitability, the survey says, the industry did not receive an adequate return on its investments.

Total revenues increased by 26 per cent to \$A13,859 million (about £6,929 million) while industry profits rose from \$A462 million in 1983/84 to \$A640 million. Projections for the 1985-86 year say profits could rise to \$A1,000 million.

The Amic survey says, however, that last year's returns were "well below acceptable levels". The effective after-tax return on funds employed was 5.5 per cent, and net profit return on total revenue was 4.6 per cent. These figures compared with pre-tax returns on government bonds of 13.5 per cent.

Sydney Stock Exchange members are predicting a continuation of low demand and over-supply in mineral commodities, with a generally flat outlook for the next few years.

For coal, which in 1984 earned \$A6,210 million or 29

per cent of the value of all mineral production, there are two parts of the picture. The outlook for coking coal is weak, with Japanese steel production likely to be reduced from 150 million tonnes last year to between 96 and 102 million tonnes in 1985/86.

For steaming coal, on the



Under the Prime Minister Bob Hawke, investment in mining is stagnant

other hand, the outlook is promising. According to Mearns and Philips of the Sydney Stock Exchange Australia's steaming coal capacity will have increased from 35 million to 40 million tonnes by mid-year, and this will be fully used against a

background of impending international shortages.

Coal is one of the areas where the industry can point to a broad pattern of cost-cutting, increased productivity and technological innovation. According to statistics produced by the joint coal board, average output per man shift increased by 10.9 per cent to 20.33 tonnes in the last financial year.

Iron ore producers are happier these days, having got over a bad patch a year ago caused by a substantial price reduction. Increased efficiency and an improvement in industrial relations are partly responsible for the buoyant mood but the industry remains vulnerable to trends in Japan, far and away its main customer.

Aluminium is expected to be badly affected by overproduction in 1986. The glut will only get deeper with the scheduled opening of a new smelter project in Portland, Victoria, with a capacity for 180,000 tonnes a year.

Other base metals are not thought likely to show any significant change. Predictions are for a slight upswing in demand for copper and a cutback in nickel production.

The Amic survey says a point of great concern is a decline of 14 per cent in

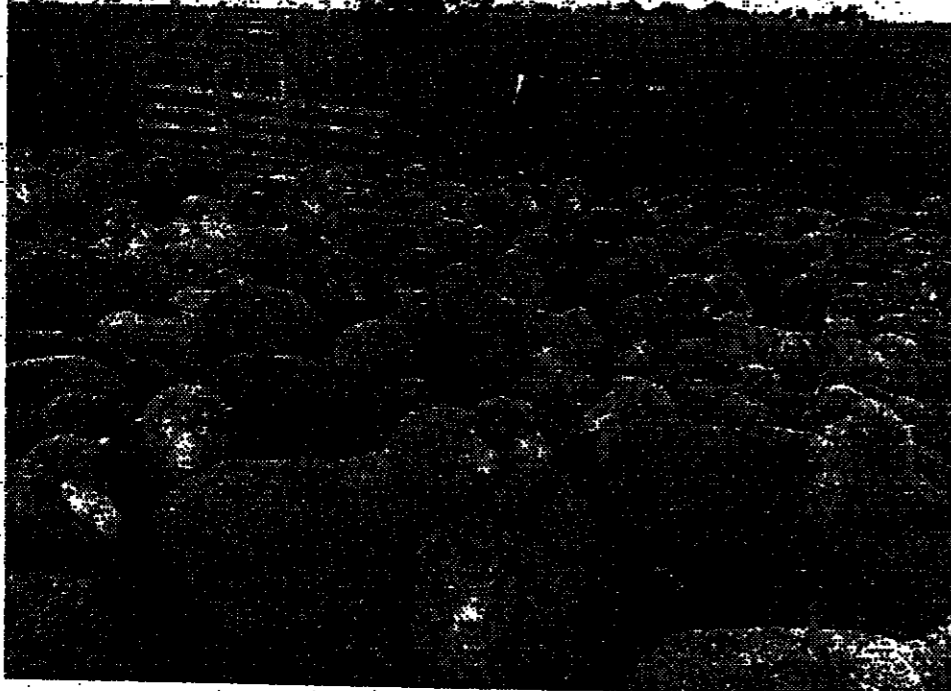
exploration investment to \$A218 million. The long-term viability of the industry, it adds, depends on the discovery of new reserves which can be developed at low cost.

The past five years of low profits have also slowed up new investment programmes. No large-scale new projects were begun in the 1984-85 year, and most new investment was on gold, of which Australia is only the fifth largest western producer and which accounts for 2.1 per cent of total mineral production.

The survey also points to what it describes as a significant trend emerging in recent years. In 1979-80, when profits were running at acceptable levels, income tax represented about 64 per cent of total company taxes. A range of new levies or increases in statutory charges has since been introduced, however, and while tax is sensitive to fluctuations in profitability, these government charges are not. By 1984-85 income tax accounted for only 45 per cent of company taxes.

Another long-term concern of the mining companies is possible legislation limiting their access to resources, in particular the question of Aboriginal land rights.

Stephen Taylor



A Merino flock: The picture looks much better for Australia's sheep farmers

The anxious farmers

As the National Agricultural Outlook conference in January made plain, the rural sector does not fit into the broadly optimistic economic canvas viewed from Canberra. Agriculture, which still contributes something of the order of 40 per cent to export earnings, is in trouble, and all the prognoses suggest 1986 is going to make matters substantially worse.

It would probably be mistaken to read too much at this stage into the emergence of a new militancy among producers, which has given rise to angry demonstrations in the capital and threats to blockade agricultural exports. But the mood among Australia's 176,000 farmers is bitter at the continuing erosion of rural living standards and in many cases despairing of any foreseeable improvement.

Two statistics give some indication of the extent of the problem. The first is that the real net value of rural production, which is the profit reaped by producers after all costs and inflation have been taken into account, is expected to fall by a quarter in 1985/86. The second is that the average return for each working member on family farms, which produce about eight per cent of agricultural output, is now projected at AS3,700 (£1,850), or half the level of the dole.

The latest quarterly review of the rural economy, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, contains another grim figure. Return on invested capital in 1985/86 is expected to be minus six per cent, compared with 1.5 per cent last year and 4.8 per cent the year before.

It is estimated that the average family farm income this year will be about \$A7,000, while 35 per cent will have a negative income. Australia is among the world's leading producers and exporters of wheat, wool, and meat. It also has substantial dairy, sugar, coarse grain, rice, fruit and fishery industries.

To deal with the lesser first-world dairy prices have been falling since 1982, and the expectation is that local producers will continue to face strong competition on a depressed international market for the next few years.

Few Australian sugar producers are likely to be in a position to benefit from a limited world price increase because of a bad growing season in Queensland which was topped off earlier this year by a crop-ravaging cyclone.

rice production is up in most Asian consumer nations and prices are at their lowest relative level since the war: strong potential for fruit and vegetable producers has not yet been realized, because of poor marketing against the trend, the fishing outlook is for a continued improvement. The chief area of concern for 1986 is the wheat industry. The value of the 1985/86 crop has been revised upwards to \$A2,920m as a result of new indicators, but is still 12 per cent down on 1984-85. According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the most likely value of the crop being sowed this year will show an even greater drop, to \$A2,530m, a decline of nearly 20 per cent in real terms.

The picture is brighter for both wool and meat, which are expected to increase in terms of gross production value by four per cent and seven per cent respectively, while in export terms they are expected to increase in value by 10 per cent and 11 per cent.

For most of these broadly gloomy figures there is, so far as the agricultural establishment is concerned, one fundamental cause - subsidies on produce from the European community and now the United States. The real villain of the piece is seen to be the EEC's Common Agricultural

Policy, which is estimated by the BAE to be eating Australia's exports worth \$500m in lost exports per annum.

The proposed US Farm Bill provoked some heavy broadsides to start with but it is seen as a partly justifiable response to the CAP. And since John Dawkins, the trade minister, was assured on a visit to Washington last month that the administration was out to nudge the Europeans and would take steps to avoid hurting Australia in its legitimate markets, the full attention of Canberra's resentment has turned back to Brussels.

While the government is, not unnaturally, keen to see the CAP take the blame for the rural crisis, producers believe Canberra could be doing a great deal more to help them through their difficulties.

Inflation is roughly double that of Australia's competitors and means rising costs to run with declining prices. While last year's decline in the value of the dollar was of some benefit, the effect was also to increase fertilizer and fuel prices. The prices and wages accord is proving harmful to the rural sector and the Na-

tional Farmers' Federation says that centralized wage fixing has to be made more flexible.

Another area in which the NFF and producers are demanding government action is on high interest rates, which are adding to the rural burden in the form of increased debt-servicing costs.

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review

ALIA'S STRESS

AP

FOCUS

Fast new life in the Cinderella state

South Australia has tended to be seen as a Cinderella among Australian states, lacking the confidence of New South Wales and Victoria with their large populations and politico-economic influence...

1960s and 1970s it led the way in social reform, legalizing homosexuality and abolishing censorship and capital punishment...

around the world watched it on television. It was voted the best run race of the season by the competing teams and is estimated to have brought between \$A40 million and \$A50 million (£20 million and £25 million) into the local economy...

technology. Just north of the capital it has opened a technology park offering office space to hi-tech companies which are starting up...

Disposable Products Australia, one of the country's largest makers of biotechnology and medical products, is to set up an R&D complex at the park and British Aerospace Australia is building a new headquarters there...

Dynamic image to attract investment

On November 3 more than 100,000 people, 40,000 of them from outside the state, attended the Adelaide Grand Prix and millions more...

As well as hosting the Grand Prix, Adelaide has acquired a casino. This is housed in the magnificent old railway station in the middle of the city and is the first stage of a \$A220 million development which includes a con-

vention centre with seating for 4,000 and a 400-room hotel. Racing cars and gambling are in danger of eclipsing the biennial Festival of Arts...

This beautiful empty country

In the land of Lord-knows-where, Right up and furthest out, You'll find a new Australia there.



The face of an Aborigine: Waiting for change

I looked up into the immense black sky, which came right down to the horizon, all around me, and I remembered the words of the old bush poem. They were true in those days.

hotels in Alice Springs and near Ayers Rock, and in August it will open a hotel in Darwin. Each town also has a casino.

um mines in lovely Kakadu National Park, on the edge of Arnhem Land. He is also frustrated by the power of Aborigines to control all mining on their land, which comprises about 30 per cent of the Northern Territory.

More than 500,000 tourists a year hopes to establish a free trade zone because, he says, "we live on the brink of the South-East Asian/Western Pacific region, the fastest growing economic bloc in the world".

the Territory's strange, beautiful and tough countryside. Expensively, as an air-conditioned tourist, sight-seeing and buffalo-shooting on safari. Or cheaply, with a sense of adventure, enjoying the straight, rough-and-readiness of white Territorians and the shy friendship of Aborigines. Talk to Aborigines in pubs, get yourself a swag and ask them to take you to their land.

Stewart Harris



The best time to catch an Aussie with his pants down is while he's resting on his laurels.

Everyone knows that the Australians have been making a bit of noise lately. And doing quite well, thank you too.

that while some Australians are strutting around like peacocks, there are some prime opportunities back in Australia. Australia is a dynamic marketplace right now and no-

one knows it better than Australia's most successful corporate/institutional broker, McIntosh Hamson Hoare Govett Ltd.

the Aussies a bit of bother for a change, hop to it. McIntosh Hamson Hoare Govett Ltd.

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standards in service and comfort. But if you'd like to know more about how we can help your Australian business travel, send off the coupon. Or contact your travel agent or British Airways. Better still, come in and see us at 20 Savile Row. You'll need a tropical wardrobe for Australia anyway.

I'd like to know how you can help with business travel in Australia. Name: Address: Send to: Mr Robert Hardless, Regional Manager, United Kingdom and Ireland, Ansett Airlines of Australia, 20 Savile Row London W1X 2AN



Black takes England... old famil... owe century... bounces ba... kapil Dev retain...

RUGBY UNION: MELVILLE'S MEN MUST BEWARE INDISCIPLINE AS THEY MAKE THEIR LAST CHALLENGE FOR TITLE

England rise out of the pit as the pendulum swings firmly to Paris

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

It will be nice going into the last game with something to play for, Martin Green, England's coach, mused after watching his team beat Ireland by three goals...

first game. His support work and ball handling, on a bitterly cold day, were of the highest order...

England's best football came after Richards's first try when they led 15-13. Melville sneaked off down the blind side...



A loose forward cuts loose: Richards, the England No 8 and double try scorer, gets the ball away. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Welsh unable to tip the balance

By Gerald Davies

Wales 15, France 23

With 10 minutes to go at the National Stadium on Saturday, England and Wales trailing by two points at 15-17...

Berbizier who, on his heels and desperate, high, but badly. The wind held Tillay, who had come in for Phil Lewis and had his best match for Wales...

A second try by Lafond, converted by Laporte, after knock-on by Sella, seemed to threaten an overwhelming disaster...

Thorburn got his first penalty in the second minute, with Laporte dropping a goal a little while later after a long sweeping movement set up by Blanco...

Neuchatel perfect setting for English

By Pat Butcher Athletics Correspondent

Tim Hutchings, the runaway winner of the national cross-country championship at Newcastle on Saturday, and Dave Lewis will spearhead an England team...

England last won the world team title in Paris in 1980, but the athlete-trained Ethiopians, who entered the following year in Madrid, have won every time since...

Nottingham get run-out

You would have had to go a long way to find some rugby on Saturday. Once again the freezing weather reduced the club programme to almost nothing...

Nottingham get run-out

The conditions were remarkably good. John Deakin, the Nottingham secretary said, and Nottingham, who were without Andrew Rees and Cook, scored six tries and afterwards reported no injuries...

Another Gala occasion

Gala's efforts in clearing snow from the surface of Netherdale were rewarded as they beat Jed-Forest 25 points to 4 in a Scottish league first division match on Saturday...

Lambourn looking forward to Festival

By Michael Phillips

If the promised thaw arrives in time to allow the three-day National Hunt Festival to get under way at Cheltenham next week...

Dudie can spring surprise in Cup

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

re mark may apply to the top weight and fellow Aintree hopeful, Dudie. In this event a year ago Larry's Latest and Dudie were placed behind Bobbine and at the revised weights Dudie is now 11lb better off...

Cecil's plea on behalf of Cautchen

From Chris Moore

Steve Cautchen, the champion jockey, will return to Britain within the next few days after spending three weeks of the winter being treated for an alleged alcohol problem...

BOBSLEIGHING

From Chris Moore

Erich Scharer yesterday brought to an end the most successful career in bobsleiving in his final race before retiring. The 39-year-old Swiss cruised to victory in the Swiss four-man championship...

NO CHANCE OF QUICK RETURN

Although milder weather is forecast for later in the week, there is no chance of racing making an immediate return...

Wednesday's racing is at Catterick and Bangor with Wincanton and Stratford-on-Avon the venues for Thursday. Meanwhile prospects are much brighter in Ireland with Tipperary (rearranged from last Thursday) tomorrow...

RACING: GEOFF LEWIS TAKES FANCIED LINCOLN HOPE RANA PRATAP TO GALLOP ON BARRY HILLS' ALL-WEATHER STRIP

Lewis showed as much dash as his horses as he scuttled here and there supervising things. Rana Pratap looked exceptionally well and the workout must have brought a hum on because he had a good blow towards Sandown Park for another gallop on Saturday...

LEOPARDSTOWN 2.30 CABINETTE 5-Y-O MAIDEN HURDLE (€1035: 2m) (16 runners)

4.30 FIRMOUNT HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,242: 2m) (17 runners)

5.0 KILGOBBIN OPPORTUNITY USD HANDICAP CHASE (€1,311: 3m) (11 runners)

Scharer bows out in style

Erich Scharer yesterday brought to an end the most successful career in bobsleiving in his final race before retiring. The 39-year-old Swiss cruised to victory in the Swiss four-man championship...

TENNIS

Jordan manages a victory over Navratilova at last

Oakland (Reuters) - The unseeded Kathy Jordan set Martina Navratilova, the world No 1, to her first defeat since the US Open last September...

SKIING



Liisa Savijarvi, of Canada, speeding to her first World Cup win in the super-giant slalom

Savijarvi's Petrovic first out on his own Cup win

Furano (AP) - Canada's Liisa Savijarvi of Canada claimed her first World Cup victory yesterday when she won the women's super-giant slalom in this northern Japanese ski resort...

Gjelo, Norway (AP) - Gunther Mader, of Austria, produced a surprise by winning a World Cup slalom here yesterday, while Rolf Petrovic, of Yugoslavia, clinched the season's slalom title...

Petrovic, who finished third, went into yesterday's race with four wins and 10 points and had already secured at least a share in the slalom title...

It was a black day for Sweden, who have one of the world's leading slalom teams. Jonas Nilsson, the world slalom champion, missed a gate in the second run and was also disqualified.

RESULTS: 1. G Mader (Austria), 1min 40.85sec; 2. P Petrovic (Yugoslavia), 1:41.47; 3. R Petrovic (Austria), 1:41.55; 4. P Larsson (Sweden), 1:41.80; 5. D Bounier (France), 1:42.00; 6. J Zoller (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. J Walder (Switzerland), 1:42.27; 8. J Walder (Switzerland), 1:42.27; 9. J Walder (Switzerland), 1:42.27; 10. J Walder (Switzerland), 1:42.27...

LACROSSE Boost for the Welsh

After three weeks without match practice the women's home international lacrosse season began unimpeded at the weekend with England beating England Reserves 7-4 on artificial turf at Crystal Palace and Scotland defeating Wales 6-3 on grass at Cardiff.

Scotland's defence settled down to its early role in a game in which good goalkeeping by Annie Hooper (Scotland) and Nicola Amery (Wales) played an important part.

University game off

The University women's hockey match at Oxford on Saturday was postponed because of snow. It is hoped to play it next Saturday.

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Courses

Army sponsorship for undergraduates. Applications for the September 1986 intake close on April 30th 1986. The Army runs two forms of sponsorship for first degree students at university, polytechnic or college of higher education.

CHIROPY AS A PROFESSION - The demand for chiropods is growing rapidly. The profession is well respected and offers a wide range of opportunities.

WOMEN BACK TO BUSINESS - A full time 12 week intensive practical course. £25 per week. Call 01-225 8211

INSTITUTE FRANCAIS - French language courses for all levels. Call 01-225 8211

GERMAN INTENSIVE COURSE - Intensive German courses for all levels. Call 01-225 8211

ASSISTED PLACES - Various courses with assisted places available. Call 01-225 8211

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE £13,000 - A large international Co urgently seeks to recruit secretary of high calibre...

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS - 100 FLORENCE STREET W1

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A&O LEVELS EASTER REVISION COURSES - St Joseph's Hall, Oxford OX4 2JL

MUSIC IN THE AGE OF ELEGANCE Summer School - The Shakespeare Centre, August 18-23, 1986

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM... News headlines, weather, travel and sport... 6.50 Breakfast... 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55 regional news... 9.30 Ceefax 10.30 Play School... 12.30 News After Noon... 1.00 Pebble Hill... 3.55 Paddington is in the Hot Seat... 6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell... 8.30 London Plus... 9.00 News with Julia Somerville... 9.30 Panorama: Defectors... 10.10 The World Tonight... 11.50 Weather.

TV-AM

- 6.15 Good Morning Britain... 8.35 Animal Watch... 9.30 Ceefax... 12.30 News After Noon... 1.00 Pebble Hill... 3.55 Paddington is in the Hot Seat... 6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell... 8.30 London Plus... 9.00 News with Julia Somerville... 9.30 Panorama: Defectors... 10.10 The World Tonight... 11.50 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines... 12.00 News After Noon... 1.00 Pebble Hill... 3.55 Paddington is in the Hot Seat... 6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell... 8.30 London Plus... 9.00 News with Julia Somerville... 9.30 Panorama: Defectors... 10.10 The World Tonight... 11.50 Weather.



Tim Pigott-Smith, Radio 4, 10.15pm.

EVERY WINDOW TELLS A STORY (Channel 4, 6.30pm) is one of those bright little gems that adorn Channel 4 with increasing regularity...

CHOICE

chapter: the Last Judgment. Mr Miller needs no artificial aids to help us come to grips with the text...

Radio 3

- 6.55 Weather, 7.00 News... 8.05 Concerto: Barbor... 9.05 This Week's Composer... 10.00 Chamber Orchestra of Europe... 11.40 Nexus: Bruce Mathers' Close de Vougeot.

Radio 4

- 6.30 Just a Minute... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

Radio 5

- 6.00 Shipping Forecast... 6.30 News Briefing... 6.55 Business News... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

Radio 1

- 6.00 Shipping Forecast... 6.30 News Briefing... 6.55 Business News... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Prague Philharmonic Chorus/soloists including Rachel Perotti, Katarina Ricciarelli, Ruggero Raimondi, Lucia Valentini Terrani and Francesco Bruscia. The conductor is Claudio Abbado.

Radio 2

- 6.00 Shipping Forecast... 6.30 News Briefing... 6.55 Business News... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

Radio 1

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BBC 2

- 8.55 Open University: Maths - Trigonometric Formulas... 9.00 Ceefax... 9.15 Ceefax... 12.00 News After Noon... 1.00 Pebble Hill... 3.55 Paddington is in the Hot Seat... 6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell... 8.30 London Plus... 9.00 News with Julia Somerville... 9.30 Panorama: Defectors... 10.10 The World Tonight... 11.50 Weather.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.35 Winston Churchill - The Valiant Years... 3.00 The Late Late Show... 4.00 A Plus 4... 4.30 Countdown... 5.00 Alice... 5.30 Comment... 7.00 Channel Four News... 7.30 News... 8.00 The World at One... 8.30 News... 9.00 News... 9.25 Kate and Allie... 9.30 The Bob Monkhouse Show... 10.10 Maestro... 10.55 News... 11.40 News... 12.10 Open University.

Radio 4

- 6.00 Shipping Forecast... 6.30 News Briefing... 6.55 Business News... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

Radio 5

- 6.00 Shipping Forecast... 6.30 News Briefing... 6.55 Business News... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers... 7.20 On your farm... 7.45 Science Now... 8.15 Welsh Drama 'Taken Out'... 9.05 Start the week with... 10.00 News: Money Box... 10.30 Morning Story... 10.45 Daily Service... 11.00 News: Travel, Down... 11.40 Poetry please!... 12.00 News: You and Yours... 12.27 Oh, Ye, Ye!... 13.00 The World Tonight... 13.15 The Financial World... 13.30 Today in Parliament... 13.45 Shipping Forecast... 14.00 News: Women's Hour... 14.15 The World at One... 14.30 Shipping Forecast... 14.45 News... 15.00 PAF News magazine... 15.30 Shipping Forecast... 16.00 The Six o'clock News.

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REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALES... HTV WEST... HTV WALES... GRAMPAN... TYNE TEES... TVS... BORDER... YORKSHIRE... SCOTLAND... ANGLIA... ULSTER... GRANADA... TSW... INTERPRETERS.

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CONCERTS: BARBICAN HALL, ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS, TATE GALLERY, GATE GALLERY, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS.

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CINEMAS: ACADEMY, GATE GALLERY, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS, TATE GALLERY, GATE GALLERY, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS.

THEATRES: APOLLO THEATRE, GATE GALLERY, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS, TATE GALLERY, GATE GALLERY, ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, REYNOLDS.

